



Lazy Dungeon Master



Volume 21 - A Fickle Calamity

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Volume Twenty-One - A Fickle Calamity

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Chapter 227 – Leona

It was coming through the monitor, but a cold shiver ran down my back.
It's similar to the time I first saw Haku-san—a dangerous person.

I don't really know what she's thinking, but she has that unreasonable [Something] scent to her.

Right. I should be able to see her DP per day since she's inside the dungeon's domain now.

I opened the menu to quickly check it out. Let's see...

124,800 DP?

My eyes must be worn out.

I rubbed them and took another look.

It's 1248 DP this time.

I see, so 1248 DP huh.

That's great, she's just at the level of a Hero.

I was just seeing things. There's no way she could be worth more than 100,000 DP... yeah, let's go with that.

I didn't see anything. Please spare me.

“Nice to meet you, I'm called Leona.”

[... Nice to meet you. I'm—right, you can call me Golem-san. Well, that's all for today then.]

“Golem-san, is it? Fufufu, I'll be receiving your dungeon's graces for a while!”

To be honest, I don't want to get involved with her to the point that I don't even want to tell her my pseudonym, Euma.

... Rather, Leona. The grandmother of our two part-time waitresses Setsuna and Nayuta, the owner of the ridiculously broken wolf slime Rin, and the person who might also be Meat's grandmother... is that all?

She has black hair and red eyes, so she matches with the information I heard from Setsuna. I can only really see her as a high school girl, but that's also following along with the information.

Come to think of it, Setsuna said that she was a Succubus or something and that a Succubus would be able to understand she was [Different] on sight, didn't see?

... Do I not need to be wary her being a Succubus but that she's [Something that isn't a Succubus that slipped into a group of Succubi]?

Umm, about that...

Seriously, please spare me.

"Ah, there are some circumstances causing me to be chased so I'd be thankful if you could hide me."

[Well, about that. I can't guarantee it. It'll depend on the other party.]

"It'd be great if you could. Well, it's not like I couldn't handle it myself if not..."

You know who's chasing you right? They're your grand kids yeah?

[Umm, right. Should I call you Leona-sama or something?]

"I don't mind if you want to drop the honorific. Everyone seems to end up using it though."

Leona glanced over at a Succubus. But the Succubus just shook her head really fast.

"But Leona-sama has all of my gratitude..."

"It's like that."

[The heck did you do?]

"I just improved the Succubus race's food situation, it wasn't anything major."

The Succubi's food situation? Just what did you do? It's probably better if I don't ask. Let's just move on.

I decided to change the topic.

[... Uhh, so why is a human like you moving around with Succubi?]

"Because it sounded fun."

[I'm just making sure, but umm, you are a human and not a Succubus right?]

"I'm an everyday seventeen year old human female."

Seventeen eh? Is that so. I'll overlook that.

But one of the Succubi asked Leona directly.

"Leona-sama, didn't you say you were seventeen around three years ago?"

“There are some humans that don’t age.”

No there aren’t!

“For a famous example, there is Haku Raverio, the empire’s progenitor.”

There is! But Haku-san is a Dungeon Core!

At the very least, Leona has perpetual youth... that’s also according to what I know already though.

[Well alright. Since I don’t intend to deal with you as a human...]

“Ooh, so you want to turn me into a seedbed for Goblins and Orcs!?”

[Why do you look so happy?—I mean, I’ll be treating you the same as the Succubi.]

“Aww...”

... Why do she look so down put? I seriously don’t get what she’s thinking...
I feel like I’m started to understand why Rin was how it was if she’s the one that raised it.

I looked away from Leona and spoke to Suira.

[Please wait in the shack here for now. I’ll call for you when I’m ready to accept you all. It should be around three days at the latest.]

“Alright.”

[Cya then.]

*

We collected the group of Golems lead by Euma into the Master Room.

Whoops, we have to collect Meat as well. With that, I looked at Rokuko.

Rokuko had fallen over onto the floor for some reason.

“O-oi, Rokuko!?”

“U-uu... K-Keima?”

She responded when I shook her.

“... Uu, my head’s pounding...”

Eh, what happened?

Come to think of it, Rokuko’s been quiet since a bit ago.

"It suddenly went boom and I started feeling bad... like something amazing jolted my body."

"No way, did Leona do something?"

"I don't know, but I felt it when she entered the dungeon's domain."

Does that have any relation to when I saw that hundred thousand-plus DP per day?

... No way, for her to do a Direct Attack to the dungeon Core... seriously, who is she?

This is something I have to figure out sooner rather than later.

"It's alright, I don't really know why... but I'm alright now. I mean, I feel fine physically."

"Don't push yourself okay? But you know your body the best, so... ah, please collect Meat."

"Alright."

As soon as Rokuko waved her hand, Meat teleported into the Master Room. Teleported, Meat fell onto the floor like she'd hit her limits and was exhausted.

"Hey!? This time it's Meat?—Oi, are you alright!?"

When I touched her shoulder, her body felt strangely cold.

When I took a closer look, her complexion was bad and she was trembling.

"... G-Goshujin-sama..."

"Calm down. What happened?"

"... N-nothing, at all... but my body, it won't stop shaking..."

I should warm her body for right now.

"... First, buy a water bottle with DP... then [Water] & [Fireball]!"

I heated up water I'd created with [Water] through a weakened [Fireball] and put it into a 5 DP hot water bottle. I had Meat hold it to warm her up a bit and covered her with a blanket I took out of my [Storage].

"Th—... thank you very much..."

"Meat, are you alright? Do you want to eat a melon roll?"

"A hamburger would be nice..."

It looks like she has a bit left in her.

She gradually calmed down after I gave her a warm hamburger to eat.

“So you don’t know why?”

“... Yeah. Sorry. I should have been watching the shack from a long distance away, but my body stopped moving at some point.”

[You’d talked to the point that I wasn’t exposed either, but there wasn’t any reactions at all~] [1]

So it’s better if Meat doesn’t contact Leona huh.

Considering that Wanko Succubus is what I thought our best fighting strength was, what should I do... the Succubi’s employment is already full of troubles.

I guess for a silver lining here, it’s not as though she’s hostile, she’s at least friendly on the surface.

“Hey, Kehma, what are we going to do?”

“... Let me think for a bit.”

But like a lot of unpleasant situations, that doesn’t seem to be her true intention.

We can’t approach this haphazardly...

Chapter 228 – Acceptance Preparations

I'm getting the feeling that what's going on is a bit over what I can deal with, so let's inform Haku-san about what's going on.

I mean, I don't think our neighbor (Ontentoo) could even handle them.

I had Rokuko to write a letter saying [Some dangerous girl named Leona came].

I then teleported the letter to [White Beach] that I'd made during the previous Dungeon Battle.

... There's a [White Labyrinth] derivation dungeon next to it for contact purposes named [White Secret] (named by Haku-san). It's basically a dungeon for the sake of having a hotline to contact Haku-san.

After the Dungeon Battle, Haku-san set up a cabin—that's all the dungeon is. To be frank, it's just one of Haku-san's holiday houses that has dungeon functions. She even has a Silky living there as a housekeeper.

Rather than for maintaining the cabin, the housekeeper's only there to wait for Rokuko trying to contact her. It's a bit of an extravagant usage, but that's just something the existence known as Haku-san can afford to do.

While I'm definitely thankful that it gives us a means to quickly get in contact with Haku-san, it's pretty terrifying.

Entrusting the letter to the taciturn girl wearing green-colored maid clothes, I returned.

By the way, the person waiting for letters on our side is the Dungeon Boss Tentacle Slime, Ten-san. Jiggly.

It's arranged such that when letters are mailed to our box and gets to Ten-san, he'll contact me.

Now that our report was sent, the response should come soon. It's Haku-san we're talking about, so it'll be tomorrow at the latest.

*

Let's make a dormitory for the Succubi to stay in for now... As for its location, I guess I could put it in the Meadow Area? That is, the rest stop place I've been making next to the Warehouse Area.

Didn't I make it a Safety Zone? It won't be a Safety Zone anymore if there's going to be monsters in it will it?

... Well, it's time for Narikin Mask for the first time in a long time!

"Umm, Kehma? Do you need to do that? No one's come so far into the dungeon yet though?"

"It's a matter of mood, so I'm Narikin."

"There's no helping it if it's about mood huh... well, will you be building it instantly this time too?"

... I've just been taking out the stuff I'd built in advance though?

"Still, I'm going to have to build the modules out of Wood Golems this time. So please prepare a large amount of wood for me."

"Yeah yeah, I'll take it out of the stockpile."

Rokuko dropped a ton of logs and branches from the Master Room's corner out into the Meadow Area, forming a pile. It caused a few to break or crack, but it's not a problem since I'm going to be using [Create Golem] anyway.

"Well then, here I go... [Create Golem]~"

I filled the small hill of wood with my magical power, permeating it and gaining control of it. Then I changed its form like I was kneading clay—
The first thing I need to do is organize it all. I finished cutting it down into planks, supports, and other wood products needed to build a house.
The bark can be used for something else so I kept it in another pile.

"Kehma, couldn't you make a living with that trick alone at this point?"

"Don't call it a trick. I'm not even worried about making a living anyway since we have the inn yeah? Also, I have the mask on right now, I'm Narikin."

Although just processing wood into lumber would be plenty enough to make a living, I seriously don't want to work.

"Well, I'll be taking out some normal Golems and attaching everything together with them through [Create Golem] next."

"You don't even need nails huh~"

"I'll be using some as camouflage anyway though."

Getting help from the large Stone Golems I'd made to be like heavy machinery, I bonded them together.

I finished all twelve of the room modules rather quickly. The reason there's one extra is so that it'll be a nice and even number.

Well, I used each of the rooms to build it like a single container house and I'm planning on having the toilet and bath shared, so it's mostly complete.

As for furniture, for now I'll just put a single futon and an empty box to put things in in each of the rooms. It's perfect.

"Now I just need to add a roof and make an entrance pathway and it'll be done... whoops, I gotta add the toilet and bath as well still."

Six containers were lined up next to each other with two rows facing each other, making twelve in all. [1] It has a bit of a village feel to it. I'd say it feels more like a downtown shopping street if it was a shop though.

I set up a water source nearby and made a proper toilet with the dungeon's functions... ah, do Succubi even need to use the toilet? Whatever. I also made a bath.

The onsen's water pipe heads through the area near here, so I'll just extend it a bit to make a bathing area here as well. It's a perfect open-air type.

"Finished."

"One hour forty minutes!"

So you kept looking at the clock to keep track of the time it took?

"... Awake Kehma is suuuuper efficient."

"Cut it out, I won't do anymore work even if you praise me."

"But you didn't even take two hours... I heard that a good carpenter would normally take a few days to build a house though, you know?"

"I can't secure my sleeping hours if I'm not fast after all."

Still though, [Create Golem] can do anything.

And now everything's in place to call over the Succubi.

"... I'd planned on making it so that we could observe them as much as possible, but it's more like we're just inviting enemies into the dungeon. I guess we'll move the core to the inn when we bring them here?"

"Probably. We should pay close attention to that Leona girl too right?"

“Yeah.”

I'll have Rokuko and the others keep up the surveillance. I'm going to sleep.
... Tomorrow should be good for calling them all over.

*

Haku-san's reply came the next day.

“What did she write?”

“... Umm, how should I put it?”

Haku-san's letter said: [Absolutely kill Leona if you have the chance. As for you being killed instead... that probably won't happen, but don't push it. Also, make sure that Rokuko-chan doesn't get seen by Leona. It'll corrupt her.]

“What, Haku Ane-sama knows Leona? It looks like she has a grudge too.”

“... Really? Who is she? Seriously.”

An influential person that's lived a long time. She's even been marked by Haku-san? Or is she the one that marked Haku-san... Either way, getting Haku-san's message saying that [You being killed won't happen], that's huge. Well, it's a bit vague since she said 'probably' though.

It didn't look like Haku-san was panicking, so it's probably not an imminent crisis for now at least.

I can feel relieved for now... now, to sleep!

... Also, Haku-san's letter said to [Not talk about the dungeon's stuff], that's really troubling.

Crap... seriously, crap. I already tried out employing the Succubi for the dungeon. If I told Haku-san that, my life might be in jeopardy...

Yeah, let's keep quiet on that.

“Well, the most important thing is that we know what's going on before they came into the dungeon. Well, guess it's time to invite the Succubi over with Euma?”

“By the way, how are we going to get them into the dungeon? Won't they be exposed if they come in through the entrance?”

“... I forgot about that.”

I'll have to open up a side entrance to the dungeon huh.
Should I close it up when we're done or keep it open as a back door?

Chapter 229 – The Second Godly Beddings

I led the Succubi—Leona included—to the dungeon using an out-of-the-way path.

I'd decided have them enter through the backdoor I made.

"Just to be sure, I would like to check things out first."

[Of course, go for it.]

Suirra herself checked the residences before returning to the back door and saying that she found nothing wrong.

Not having proper bedding would be troubling, after all.

... Ah, the 'I'd be troubled if it turned into [I'll kill you after all]' kind of situation?
That huh~. It's obvious when you take credibility into account.

This time, I guided the Succubi and Leona into the dungeon.

Michiru, who wasn't there before, came as well. She was tightly holding onto the corners of Leona's clothes in fright.

The other Succubi's clothes are all practically strings, so maybe she was the only one whose clothes she could hold on to?

Also, even though the Succubi were all wary of traps, Leona walked in the lead without the slightest worry.

... It's like her momentum would break traps just by stepping on them.

By the way, there are traps, but I've set them so that they'll only activate if unauthorized people come here.

"There were several rooms on the way, but there weren't really any traps, were there?"

"Cheh, how boring."

Why's she looking disappointed... Wait, was her confidence from being able to manage even if there were traps? This isn't a situation where I can pick a fight.

Like that, we appeared in the Meadow Area. There were twelve container houses lined up. Everyone other than Suira, who'd already seen them, was surprised.

Leona looked at me with a smile.

“Golem-san, thank you for preparing such a good residence for us.”

[Ah, yeah. Please let me know if you need anything. Though as for whether or not I'll be able to accommodate you, I don't know.]

Leona's daily DP is still changing a lot. It's at 2480 right now, but it was 0 a little while ago. C'mon, it's changing way too much for me to figure anything out.

Or maybe this is also something that happens with people with a connection to dungeons... I mean, she is something like Haku-san's acquaintance... she said to not talk to her about dungeon stuff though...

“Being given something as great as this, aaah, it's so wonderful. I could bring anyone I want here!”

[Though there is a possibility that people will come along since this is a dungeon... well, you all can do what you want with them. Just don't kill them, let them come back alive.]

“May we take away their possessions too?”

[... Try not to overdo it okay? At least leave them with their underwear intact.]

“Eh, but that's the most delicious spot!”

[I'm not so sure I know what meaning of ‘delicious’ you're using, but in that case at least leave them with a jacket. If you just roll them over there unconscious, I'll have Golems take them back out in front of the dungeon.]

“Kaaay~”

Leona replied obediently. The other Succubi appeared to assent as well.

[I'll make sure to bring normal food as well since there won't be so many people coming here.]

“Thanks... But really, there's even a toilet and a bath, isn't there? Are you not planning anything?”

[Nothing right now. As for what I'll be planning, I'm thinking of how I should make use of you Succubi from here on.]

“Oh? The ‘no plan’ type? So that's why even my eyes can't see through this.”

What's that about your red eyes now?

... Yep, first thing I'm going to do is somehow contact Setsuna from the dungeon

side of things and leak her whereabouts.

“Right, Suira. Should we give it ‘that’ as thanks?”

“‘That’, you mean... Leona-sama, you don’t mean...?”

“Yeah, let’s give it the Succubus treasure, the [Godly Beddings].”

... Did she just say... [Godly Beddings]...?

I recalled the Rokuko-exclusive use [Godly Beddings] series [Godly Comforter] Rokuko got from [Father] from our previous Dungeon Battle.

I also used it one time by transforming into Rokuko, but it really did feel wonderful.

“Oh, Golem-san. The [Godly Beddings] are beddings said to be the highest quality of pleasant sleep you could ever have—to the point of being godly—if you collect the full set.”

Supreme sleep at the level of godhood... that really is attractive.

It might be a good idea to try collecting the rest. I’d absolutely love to get it from her if I could.

But unfortunately, the Succubi stopped Leona.

“Please wait, Leona-sama! The [Godly Beddings] is a Succubus treasure. It’s an item that is powerful and must be strictly controlled!”

“Yeah, Leona-sama! It’s an item we left to you because you’re Leona-sama! I can’t approve of just giving it to Golem-san who we just met yesterday!”

“Now now... sleep isn’t necessary for Golems, so I thought that its management would be fine in Golem-san’s hands. Besides, it would be [Authentic] if it was put in the deepest depths of a dungeon right?”

Authentic, huh... being a treasure deep within a dungeon would be authentic.

... I want that Godly Beddings.

How comfortable must it be if it’s even called the Succubus treasure?

—ah, I can’t be greedy here. I have to pretend to be disinterested to the bitter end and get the Godly Beddings through a natural flow.

[Well, I’m fine either way, but if I had to say, if it’s something you’re offering, I’d like to have it. I’m a bit curious, could I see the Godly Beddings? Rather, could I even use it? I mean, I’d also like to hear if it’s restricted as a Succubus-only item or if there’s some other restriction.]

"Wow, Golem-san's suuuper drooling for it."

"See, Leona-sama? It obviously wants it! Even though it's a Golem!"

W-what did I do wrong? Even though they shouldn't have been able to read my expression through the Golem...

[What're you talking about. You're misunderstanding me. All it was was that I'm a little interested in the effectiveness of the Godly Beddings and its comfort. I never intended to misuse it at all! I genuinely just want to try using it as my beddings!]

"... For now, that's enough as thanks right?"

"No but it's still the Succubus treasure, it's not something we can give away so easily right, Leona-sama? I'm also afraid that it will be misused..."

Why are the Succubi's expressions all like they're looking at something bad? Is using it no good? Kuh, the heck!? Beddings are meant to be used!

"Now now, I think it's alright if Golem-san uses it how it wants if we give it it for now. Rather, I'm interested on how Golem-san will use it."

[... Ooh...! You're very reasonable, Leona.]

"But what Suira and the others have said is true. We haven't known you for long, Golem-san, so let's put the Godly Beddings on hold~"

[... Kuh, o-oh well. There's still a lot of stuff we don't know about each other, it can't be helped that you don't trust me yet. So then, umm, about when do you think it'd turn into being alright?]

"I wonder now. Hmm, I guess I'd be fine offering it to you if I feel that we can get along well. So sooner or later?"

Leona spoke with a sweet smile on her face.

"Right, we will give you the Succubus treasure, the Godly Beddings' [Godly Comforter]!"

A duplicate^

Chapter 230 – And I Don’t Intend to Hide Her At All

So those can have doubles too, huh.

I’d thought that there were only one of each of the Godly Beddings in the world like a certain set of balls, but I guess not? [1] Well even if they are [Godly], they are beddings, so there has to be spares... even those balls had other ones with different stars.

[Y-yeah. Godly Comforter huh? Sounds warm.]

“Can Golems even be warm or cold...?”

[It’s a matter of the feeling behind it.]

Well, it being a double isn’t a problem in the least since I’d be able to use it separately from Rokuko’s.

What would happen if we tried using them both at the same time?

[What other kinds of Godly Beddings are there?]

“From what I know, other than the comforter, there’s a pillow, mattress, blanket, nightcap, as well as pajamas, and underwear.”

[Umm, how is underwear a part of beddings?]

“Would you sleep naked under the pajamas? It’s like that.”

Well, if I had to say if it was or wasn’t a part of beddings, I guess it’s related? It’s more beddings-ish than Chanel No. 5 or something at least. [2]

“That aside, are you sure about us being on defense here?”

[Yeah, we’ll go with you all having the duty of being on standby for defense. Well, there haven’t even been any adventurers that have made it this far so you can just relax. By the way, would you like a guard just in case? Or do you not need one? Leona seems like a pretty strong person?]

“No way! I’m just a weak, insecure girl, so please go and leave five—no six Orichalcum Golems here!”

And just whose mouth is that coming from...? By the way, Leona’s current daily DP income is at 5000 DP. That’s four or five Heroes’ worth.

[That would be a bit much... I'll leave ten Iron Golems. You should be able to somehow manage any adventurers that make it here with that many.]

"I want some iron, could I have one of them?"

[... If it's just one, go for it.]

I was also a bit worried about what they'd do without any armor.

I decided to wrap up our conversation and head back.

Then, when I looked at Rokuko, she was spread out across the Master Room's floor.

Again?

"... Rokuko, are you alright?"

"I'm fine... just a bit weak right now. Rather, it's like my blood circulation is amazing."

So it's like Leona just gave Rokuko a massage, making her a limp noodle eh? The heck kind of attack is that...

"I-it's probably her DP. I got a similar feeling when Haku Ane-sama gave me her DP."

"I see."

The probability of her being some dungeon's staff is increasing more and more... ah, come to think of it, wasn't Setsuna's dad a Dungeon Core? Taking that into account, isn't it alright to just assume that she's some dungeon's official for certain? But then why did Haku-san tell me to not talk to her about dungeon stuff...?

I moved Rokuko over to her bed put her down in it. Even though I say it like that, I just used the deployment menu function to send her to her room's bed. The Godly Comforter can full recover both magical power and physical stamina, so she should be alright.

*

I decided to leak the information about Leona to Setsuna immediately. I should have her tell me about who Leona really is as a trade.

So when I secretly left a letter saying [I acquired information about Leona. Come alone, immediately], she came immediately. Even if she wasn't on her

shift, it was still faster than expected.

Setsuna, having come to the small room that's called [Avarice Lodge] in the corner of the former Riddle Area, asked about Leona right off the bat.

"You said you got information about Grandma?"

[Yeah. To be exact, Leona's whereabouts.]

"... Umm, is it really my Grandma Leona?"

[She more or less matches the information you gave me. I'd need more information to be exact.]

With that, I spoke of Leona's appearance.

After listening to the gist of it, Setsuna nodded.

"... Ponytail huh, that's definitely Grandma's favorite hairstyle. Alright, I'll tell you who Grandma is, so tell me where this Leona was sighted. I feel bad for everyone, but I have to chase after her..."

[I'm alright with telling you where first, but I won't give any guarantees. Please tell me who she really is.]

"I know."

Setsuna nodded suddenly. So I'll finally know about what Leona truly is...

"Grandma is... a Dungeon Core."

[Hoh, a peer of mine? ... Hmm? But how is her identity something that needed to be hidden from me?]

"She's a Dungeon Core, but, umm, she's not just a Dungeon Core... I mean, uhh. She's also a Dungeon Master."

A Dungeon Core turned into a Dungeon Master...? Like how Rokuko called herself when we first met?

At any rate, I guess her being related to a dungeon is a fact now that I know she's a Dungeon Master.

"And it's also super hard to say... but she's also a Hero."

I see, so she's a Hero eh?

... Hold up. I can understand being a Hero and a Dungeon Master. I mean, I'm like that.

But what about a Dungeon Core being a Hero?

[Is she a self-proclaimed Hero?]

“No, she’s a genuine Hero that was properly certified by God. She said that her black hair is evidence... as for me being the descendant of a Hero and a Dungeon Core, umm, there’s that. I-I don’t want to cause trouble.”

[Well, that’s good. I understand that you trust this place... But she’s not a Hero’s descendant right? I’d heard that Heroes have black hair and brown eyes?]

“Her eye color turning red is a side effect of the skill she has.”

[Heeeh...]

A skill that causes the person’s eyes to turn red, huh. What kind of skill is it? A sight-type skill?

... Ah, is that why Haku-san’s eyes are red too? No, it’s alright right now huh? [3]

[What kind of skill is it?]

“She said that it’s [Super Massage Lv 10].”

[... Eh?]

It has [Super XX] as its name, so it’s a Hero’s skill, but massage? Moreover, Lv 10? That has to be a joke.

“I don’t know if it’s the truth or not, but it seems like a Hero’s skill.”

[Assuming it’s true, it sounds scary... but why’d that turn her eyes red?]

“So that she can see her target’s discomforts I think?” [4] [O-o-oh.]

It’s to the point that I’d like to treat it like a hoax, but I can’t say anything about it after seeing what Rokoko was like after I’d talked with Leona.

[So uh, what’s up with her being a Hero, Dungeon Core, and Dungeon Master?]

“From what I was told, she has some skill called [Super Alchemy]... umm, it mixed them into her. The Hero and Dungeon Core parts, I mean.”

[... Eh? W-why’d she do something like that?]

“I don’t really know why, but that’s what she said.”

In other words—assuming what Setsuna said is true—Leona is literally light darkness combined. She’s basically a dangerous existence.

Is she an upgraded version of me? Ha ha, hah...

“So, where’s Grandma?”

[Ah. She came to this dungeon the other day... Right now she's living in an area I built even farther inside than this place.]

“... Eh? She’s HERE!?”

Setsuna shouted in astonishment. Understandable.

[Yeah. To be frank, I want her to leave, but I thought it’d be better to take your situation into account. She’s under a kind of house arrest... she’s being docile for now, but I can’t say how long that’ll last. You should hurry up to meet her if you want to. I won’t block your way if you and Nayuta go together yourselves.]

“Alright... assuming Grandma’s here, it should take some time to prepare, two days at most.”

[Now that I think of it, I did keep her here for you. As a service for that, please, tell me your goal.]

“Okay. My goal is to have Grandma change my body back.”

Saying that, Setsuna smiled.

Chapter 231 – Reunion

I see, so that's the hermaphrodite girl (?) Setsuna's goal?

[In other words, you were mixed with things through [Super Alchemy] as well?]

"Something like that... Grandma's the only person that can restore me."

[That so? I don't really know the details, but do your best yeah?]

"Un, thanks. I'll bring you something next time."

[If you do, please bring me some information about the Godly Beddings.]

"Godly Beddings... un, alright."

With that, our talks came to a close.

Setsuna returned to the small room and pressed down on the interrupt button to leave.

*

Then the next day came. Setsuna and Nayuta dove into the dungeon. Although they appeared to have shifts as waitresses today, it looks like Meat took their place. I know their circumstances and readily gave my permission but —well, alright. Let's just enjoy Leona's reaction.

"... I feel like I should go lay down in my bed in anticipation for what's coming. Rather, I want to lay down."

"Don't take my lines... well, I get what you mean."

"I'll quickly lay down if Leona does something!"

It was too troublesome to bring her to her bed, so she decided to head back if she felt anything unusual.

While we were talking about stuff like that, Setsuna and Nayuta had easily arrived in the Meadow Area that had the Succubi in it. It could be called obvious since I'd had Golems guide them there... but still, they didn't think that I'd deceived them at all? I wasn't deceiving them though.
So now, let's see what happens.

*

They were told about it beforehand, but there really weren't any dungeon traps or monsters getting in their way.

Rather, a Golem even guided them so that they'd easily pass right through the labyrinth and not encounter any other adventurers.

They made their way down the Staircase Area—something that they'd heard was chock-full of traps—with nothing really happening and went through the Warehouse Area—a place that they'd heard only the Hero had been able to investigate—like it was a stroll in the park with the Golem's guidance.

Once they'd been guided to the staircase that was the boundary to the area, the Golem guide left waving.

"We really were welcomed in huh. Are we sure this isn't a trap?"

"I feel that we can trust Euma-san."

"I haven't met him myself, but... un, he doesn't seem ordinary. If Onee-chan says he's trustworthy, I'll trust him too. So she's right after this?"

"Seems like it... Shall we go in with some caution and see how it goes?"

When they went down the stairs, they saw a meadow. There was even a sky even though it's inside a dungeon.

There were occasionally rooms and floors within dungeons that had environmental changes like this. This wasn't their first time seeing something like this, so neither of them were too surprised and were able to calm down and continue looking around.

They were told that there was a rectangular building there with a woman named Leona living in it.

... She hadn't heard the details, but Euma had told her that he couldn't guarantee her safety in the floor that Leona lived in. In other words, she was someone not under the dungeon's control—perhaps Leona was a traveler like them, or maybe a pet? That was what they originally assumed.

"... Still though, this really is a community."

"I'd heard talks about there being a village in the dungeon... but it's like this?"

There was a building surrounded by a fence made out of waist-high wooden planks. There was even a small gate with a brand-new wooden sign that said: [Our Passionate Welcome! Succubus Village].

“Succubus Village... Succubus, huh... Looks like Grandma’s here.”

“Succubi are troublesome as enemies. They said welcome so how about we ask them?”

“Let’s try it. Umm... hello~, is anyone there~?”

When Setsuna said that at the gate, several of the small houses’ doors opened.

A person walked out. She had a rather seductive appearance and wore what would better be described as strings than as clothes.

“Hello~, are you adventurers? Oh, girls?”

“Succubi? This really is a Succubus Village then...”

“Yeah... Umm, what should we do? We didn’t expect that our first guests would be girls.”

“Ah, right. Is someone named Leona here? We came to see them.”

When Setsuna said that, the Succubus put herself on guard.

“... Leona-sama’s pursuers!? Girls, get out here, quick!”

“Eh, pursuers!? Where!? Hey, bring the spears!”

“We won’t let you take Leona-sama!”

Various Succubi popped up and approached.

“W-wait! I, umm, please let us talk!”

“To Leona-sama?”

“Yeah! ... Well, that’s if she’s the [Leona] that I’m thinking of—”

At that moment, a woman wearing an ordinary outfit came out of the room that was the farthest away from them.

Her face was exactly the one that Setsuna and Nayuta remembered, the red-eyed, black-haired Leona.

“Ah! You’re here!”

“Grandma! Is it really you!?”

“Oh, if it isn’t Setsuna? Nayuta too? Doing well~?”

Setsuna and Nayuta assumed their battle stances on reflex. Although this caused the Succubi to once again be wary of them, Leona simply waved her hand. She was the only person left looking carefree, looking like she was just

meeting her relatives after a few months.

“Umm, Leona-sama. Should we not attack them, then?”

“Yeah, Suira, don’t make this get violent. These are my cute granddaughters after all.”

“... Huh? Leona-sama, weren’t you seventeen? How do you have such grown children?”

“Yeah, I have grandchildren at seventeen years old.”

Setsuna and Nayuta both looked at Leona with reproachful eyes. Leona simply smiled back at them.

She appeared to not accept their visual complaints.

“Grandma? Would I lose if I tsukkomi’d here?”

“Isn’t it alright as-is, Nayuta? So, why’d you come to meet me? But don’t use ‘Grandma’, call me something with some more love in it okay? Why not trying saying it? Repeat after me~, Leonan♪” [1] “... Setting that aside, I want my body restored.”

“Oh?

Hearing Setsuna’s request, Leona tilted her head.

“But aren’t you cuter this way? Besides, it was a Power Up~? You’re supreme in power and cuteness now~, fufufu.”

“You...!”

“Oh my, don’t get angry, now. Don’t ruin your cute little face—wait, it’s not so bad, is it? You’re even cute when you’re angry, Setsuna. Let Grandma give you some allowance.”

Regarding Setsuna, who had tried to hit her, Leona simply dropped a silver coin down into her cleavage from behind.

Although she definitely hadn’t taken her eyes off of her, she vanished instantly and had appeared behind her.

“Hyah! W-when did you—!?”

“It’s alright, Setsuna, you’d be able to surpass even me if you keep on training you know? After around three hundred years.”

“Three hundred years... my lifespan would run out first.”

“Oh? Setsuna, don’t you know that you don’t have a lifespan anymore since I

made you immortal? Congratulations Setsuna, you'll be able to train forever!"

Setsuna had launched a backhand strike towards Leona as she'd turned around. But her fist was easily deflected. Completely getting out of range of Setsuna, this time Leona gently patted Nayuta's cheek from right in front of her.

"Do you also want to be made immortal if I get the materials, Nayuta?"

"... I'll decline! Who would want the ridiculous downsides forced on them!?"

"Eternal youth is a woman's dream though? It's easily enough to take on some pain and hardship for. Besides, isn't not like the side effects are even really that bad now are they? ... By the way, Nayuta. You're travelling alone with Setsuna? Are you two sharing a room?"

"We're sisters, so obviously! W-we haven't done anything strange!"

She was swinging her knife around and blushing, but Nayuta was meant to be a rear guard in the first place, she was much less suited to combat than Setsuna. Even Setsuna's quick fist hadn't been able to land, so it wasn't like Nayuta's attack would ever land.

"Isn't it alright!? Restore Onee-chan!"

"Mmm, sorry, but no can do..."

Leona spoke with an innocent smile.

"I mean, that doesn't sound fun at all."

Although Setsuna took a short run to punch her, her fist was blocked nonchalantly.

Even after receiving Setsuna's full-powered punch, Leona's palm didn't so much as quiver.

Chapter 232 – Someone Who Really Doesn’t Want to be Involved

Leona grasped Setsuna’s fist tenderly and patted it.

“... You tampered with my body... for fun?”

“Yeah? What’s wrong with that?”

“You demon—!”

She started to throw a punch with her other hand, but before the fist could even reach her, Setsuna collapsed powerlessly.

“H—.... huh... my, strength....?”

“I just gave you a bit of my prided massage. Kay, Suira. You can eat up now~. In the Succubus way, that is.”

“Eeh!? ... I mean sure, but are you sure? They’re your grandchildren aren’t they?”

“I’m sure, go for it. Setsuna’s a delicacy, she’ll be super delicious. She’s a bit weak right now... so just knock her out and roll her over kay~?”

Leona handed the unmoving Setsuna over to the Succubus and looked at Nayuta.

“W-wait, Grandma? That means you won’t hear my request?”

“Oh, Nayuta, you have a request too? Did you want larger boobs or something? ... Yep, we have a good amount (Succubi) gathered here, so I’ll exchange yours for whichever pair you like okay?”

“I don’t want that! Papa not waking up, that’s your doing isn’t it, Grandma!?”

“Nn? Ah, that? Hmm... it’s definitely something I did but I reaaaally don’t remember it, so... sorry?”

“Guu... y-you...!”

“Ahahaha, Nayuta, I love your angry face so much! It’s alright, did you know that there’s a Philosopher’s Stone that can be produced by researching alchemy to the extreme? Despite its appearance, it can produce miracle cures if you use it and can cure most abnormalities. Check out this sample of a Philosopher’s

Stone, see it?"

Leona took a stone that glowed with a faint red color out of her [Storage]. Guess that's the Philosopher's Stone she'd mentioned.

"—Give me that thing!"

"Ahahaha, sure~... [Super Alchemy]. Alright, it's just an ordinary rock though."

Leona changed the red stone into a gray-colored—ordinary rock, then tossed it over to Nayuta.

Even so, Nayuta caught it. She hoped to get even a tiny clue, but even after examining the stone again with her alchemy skill, it was nothing other than an everyday rock.

"... How far will you go torturing people before you're satisfied...!?"

"I believe you'll be able to reach the extremes of alchemy yourself, Nayuta. Even an ordinary human could make it in just a short ninety years, so you should be able to do it in give or take thirty. Well, I made my first one in three days though! Kusu kusu kusu."

Leona laughed with an irritating laugh. Nayuta glared back at her, but it didn't do anything.

As for Leona, she just gently stroked Nayuta's head. Although Nayuta noticed that she was suddenly being pat, she'd already become unable to put any power into her body.

"Well then, good night to you too, Nayuta. It's alright. You're my adorable grand kids. I'll leave you both with your robe and gym outfit... I'll be taking your panties though♪"

"Kuh... you, pervert..."

Nayuta collapsed with a thud.

Like this, the face-off between Leona and the two ended in her one-sided victory.

*

Leona was a more ridiculous existence than I'd thought she was. First, her brute strength. She was about to take Setsuna's all-out attacks with ease, so it doesn't look like we could win with our strength at all. Moreover, I

couldn't even see her move. Was she teleporting? Or maybe stopping time? Second, her suppressive strength. I can't say if those were really massages, but she instantly disabled both Setsuna and Nayuta, making them lose consciousness. Those two are now the Succubi's food. They're eating up rather mercilessly even though they're girls, those Succubi.

And finally was her Super Alchemy. If what got talked about was true, it looks like she can even make someone have eternal youth as long as she has the materials. Moreover, she even turned the Super Rare Item known as a Philosopher's Stone—something that costs more than 500,000,000 DP according to the Catalog—into an everyday rock... She can probably pop them out whenever she wants. Her skill is called [Super Alchemy], so it's definitely a Hero skill. That is, it's a cheat. A cheat, I say!

... Also, the most troubling thing of all, she has a horrid personality. I don't feel like I'd be able to get a wink of sleep with someone like that zoned in on me. It feels like I'm starting to understand why Haku-san said to kill her if I get the chance.

"Kehmaaa..."

Hearing my name, when I looked over to Rokuko, she was a bit giddy and blushing.

"Oh, it looks like today's is relatively alright, but are you alright not heading back to your room?"

"Nn, I'm 'kay. Maybe's it's because we weren't her opponent this time? Those two part-timers were... Feels like I got hit by the aftershocks though."

"There's aftershocks to that stuff? You shouldn't walk around by yourself then."

"Kehma, with you saying it it just sounds like an excuse to sleep the whole time."

You know me well, Rokuko. As expected of my partner.

"By the way, Rokuko. What do you think of Leona?"

"Hmm? Right... if she doesn't give us any trouble, we could get along... I think? How should I say it, it feels like she just does what she feels like."

"And if we assume she will give us some trouble?"

"Then I'll agree with Haku Ane-sama's opinion, we should kill her. I think that

would benefit the whole world... Kehma, what do you think?"

"I think that I wouldn't be able to sleep at will with someone like her following me around."

"How Kehma-like of you."

Rokuko smiled.

"So, what do we do?"

"I wonder... maybe we should just leave her alone? I don't want to poke a sleeping threat. There's a saying in my hometown: you'll scare out a snake by poking at the bush."

"Wouldn't telling Setsuna and Nayuta about Leona being in the dungeon count as poking her?"

Now that you mention it, I guess I already did.

... Rather, what Setsuna said was that she came after hearing that Leona was here, so maybe I wasn't exposed? I should at least keep her from saying anything about it I guess?

"W-well, yeah. I'll be assigning those Succubi to some suitable side jobs here before long... they'll be worth DP just by existing here, but I don't think I should let them have so much free time."

"I'm looking forward kind of work you'll give them."

I'd never expected Leona to be such a bullshit existence. Let's just pray that Leona doesn't get angry over the information leak and do something.

*

On the day Setsuna and Nayuta went to Leona, I was eating dinner in the dining room.

I was leisurely eating at a corner table in the dining room while thinking that it was pretty crowded today... when I suddenly heard a voice. It was asking to share the table, something common enough at times when it's packed like this.

"Sorry~, could I sit here?"

Although there were other tables with open seats still to take, seeing as how their question sounded like they wanted to talk, I guess they wanted to sit here either because I'm the Village Chief or because they're a friendly kid.

I didn't really have a reason to refuse them, so I answered while lifting my head up to look at them.

"Sure. I don't min—...!?"

"Oh? Is there something on my face?"

Like I could even care about that right now?

With her black hair pulled into a ponytail and red eyes, the woman—Leona sat down right across the table from me.

Oh crap, I might die.

Chapter 233 – The Existence Named Leona 1

My hands froze up.

Why's Leona here? Wasn't she staying inside the dungeon together with the Succubi?

I wasn't using [Super Transformation], so I'd die if she killed me. Let's flip [Blackout Resistance] ON just in case.

"Here is your C-Rank meal, it's crowded right now, so please don't take too long in eating it."

"Oh! This, this is it! I've been wanting to eat some since I heard about it~"

Today's C-Rank meal is some grilled ginger pork with rice instead of bread. Rei placed the C-Rank meal in front of Leona, not taking notice of the sweat waterfall taking place in my mind.

'So please don't take too long in eating it'—huh, how formal. Also, help please? I was begging for help in my mind, but she obviously wouldn't be able to hear it. Rei wouldn't be able to do anything to Leona with her nonexistent offensive power anyway. Rather, she should escape while she can.

"Ufufu, how many years has it been since I've had rice? Did I eat it back when I was seventeen...? Ooh, that would've been only recently then, wouldn't it? Tehee~♪"

Is that joke about being seventeen your trademark or something?
... Wait, I still haven't actually met Leona directly. There's a good chance that she just happened to come to the seat across me by chance, I can just slip away at some point. As for how I'll slip away, well, I don't know.

"Well now, Golem-san."

"Bugofu—"

"Ah, do you prefer Keima-san?"

Yep, she found me out. I understand that perfectly.

It'd be alright if she just used my name even without me telling her, I'm the Village Chief. It wouldn't be hard to get my name and using perfect Japanese diction for it could've just been happenchance. But Golem-san is an out.

"Hahahaha... please spare me my life."

"Why are you suddenly asking this lovely young girl something so weird? It's alright, I just want to talk today—[Isolation], [Camouflage], there we go. Alright, now it'll just look like we're having a fun little conversation to anyone else, so being blunt's OK~"

When Leona snapped her fingers, I couldn't hear any sounds coming from all of the people around us. It looks like she used some skill to produce a space that we can talk privately... which also means that I can't call for help.

"Umm..."

"I came as a friend today, so don't worry about honorifics. Golem-san's way of talking would be good... The next time you speak overly polite, I'll flick you in the forehead, alright?"

"... Alright."

Leona smiled. Actually, I think 'grinned' might be a better way to put it? At any rate, her forehead flick sounds like it might cause my head to straight up vanish so being overly polite is hereby banned!

"Oh, wondering about my skill? I guess we could've moved to a room, but I'm not some cheap woman that would let some strange man bring me to his room so easily~"

"Today's my treat! Everyone, feel free to eat and drink all you want!"

I called out, but the people around us didn't pay me any attention and just kept on eating.

"... Yeah, no reaction at all. Alright, sure. I'll trust you."

"Heeh, that's amusing. It's the first time I saw someone react like that, it's usually 'please save me~' and stuff."

"So, what's up? Rather, how'd you know who I am?"

"Oh? It's hard to like men that are too hasty, you know? ... Well, I don't mind telling you."

Leona pointed to her red eyes and spoke.

"I have [Super Appraisal]... I can see your everything."

An appraisal-type skill. I'd thought that she'd have one, but seeing as how it

has ‘Super’ tacked on, it’s a Hero Skill?

“Fufufu, isn’t it a standard? I could see that that Golem’s name was Euma, and that it was manufactured by ‘Keima-san’. Also that you’re older than the seventeen year old me.”

“... I don’t know if it’s a standard or not, but I don’t have an appraisal-type skill.”

“Hoh? Then couldn’t you transform into me with your [Super Transformation] for a taste of it?”

So she even found out about my Hero skill huh... [Super Appraisal] is a frightening skill.

I wonder if she could even see me as having [Occupation: Village Chief (Dungeon Master-cum-Hero)]?

“But I don’t recommend transforming into me, you’d probably go mad and end up dying... You have Lv 3 though, so maybe you’ll respawn?”

“... Go mad? Wow. Why would that happen?”

“You’d also have my abilities, but you would get juuuuuust a little cursed. I’m fine—rather, I guess it’s more like I become alright?—because I have [Magic Absorption], but the curse will just flow over to you when you take on my form.” [1]

Seriously? ... I didn’t transform into Leona with [Super Transformation] like how I did with Setsuna because I had some information beforehand, but holy crap. That saved me.

“Do you know what cursed you?”

“Do you keep track of how many grams of meat you eat every day? I sure don’t. It’s like that. Ufufu, just think of it like the whole world’s cursing me, isn’t it thrilling?”

So there’s just too many sources?

“So, how have you been, Golem-san?”

Relaxed, Leona asked me a question like she was wanting to do some small talk.

“Please call me Village Chief-san, not Golem-san... right, I just recently started feeling like some lion was staring me dead in the eyes.”

"Well, it definitely must be a cute, everyday lion then. Ah, how about you call me [Leonan♪] then? Like a boyfriend, with affection and love."

"Leonan, I'm the type to use honorifics for lovers and juniors."

"Then we'll just use our names, Keima-san."

Leona gulped down the rice while eating the grilled ginger pork.

"Mmm! Rice really is the soul food of Japan! Why is it this world doesn't have any? I gave up after trying to make it didn't work out, even turning rocks into orichalcum was easier. Did you know that rice isn't even on the Lv 10 recipe list for [Super Alchemy]? Even though something like the Philosopher Stone was listed at Lv 1... Well, [Super Alchemy] itself is derived from the Philosopher's Stone though."

"Oooh, so you're a Japanese after all?"

"Oh? You're one too, Keima-san? My eyes being red is because of my skill."

"[Super Massage]? Or [Super Appraisal]?"

"So you heard about that from Setsuna? Neither, it's a common [Magic Sight]-type skill. With it, I can even see things like the flow of magical power within a dungeon's domain... Haku-chan has it too, you know? Haku-chan's eyes were red to begin with though."

Wow, it looks like I just learned something good. She isn't planning on erasing me now, right?

"You don't need to be so scared, I'm just speaking so freely since it's fun to speak with another Japanese... So, how long has it been since you came here, Keima-san?"

"... About one year."

"It's been around five hundred for me, I think? I look younger than my age because I have eternal youth though. Oh dear, a woman shouldn't talk about her age, how inconsiderate of me."

What are you going off saying on your own now?

"I'm not interested in your age, so please don't worry."

"Really really? Weren't you a lolicon that's only interested in gachi loli? Ah, I was thinking that that information was a countermeasure for the Succubi, but you really fooled me! My evaluation of you got a super UP!" [2]

I don't recall deceiving anyone, but it looks like she went and got deceived on her own. I don't know if my evaluation being improved is a good or bad thing though.

"Should I ask you straight up then? What's your goal?"

"My goal? Hmm, alright, I'll tell you."

With a complacent smile, Leona assumed an important air about her. At that moment, the air around her felt like it literally turned black.

"I want to become the [Final Boss]."

Chapter 234 – The Existence Named Leona 2

“I want to become the [Final Boss]!”

Leona said it a second time. It’s that important to her?
She kept on speaking when I was about to try asking what she meant.

“I, well, want to use my power how I want, when I want, doing what I want, selfishly, mercilessly, irresponsibly, and never have to think about whatever ties people down like apologies, reasons, compensations, or annoyances. I just want to enjoy myself... In other words, I want to live my life in this world doing whatever I feel like, I want to become the Last Boss! Fufufu.”

Leona laughed giddily. She still hadn’t finished, though.

“Haven’t there been circumstances altering Last Bosses recently like [He’s actually a good guy] or [There was no other choice but to] or [The evil ones were actually humanity]? That’s stupid, I hate stuff like that. Last Bosses should move in accordance to their desires and wield their strength how they want. An antagonist that overruns, pillages, plunders, and steals without ever feeling guilty about any of it. I want to be that sort of absolute authority.”

In other words, someone wholly engrossed by their selfishness. Looks like the Last Boss is the existence named Leona.

“There’s even a Demon King in this world, gods too. Well, even if he’s calling himself a Demon King, he’s a Dungeon Core. The Destruction God is the God of Light and the God of Darkness is the Evil God—the Creation God isn’t doing anything. They don’t feel like Last Bosses at all yeah? That’s why I’ll turn into one and that’s just how it is.”

It’s like that... well, it’s probably better that I don’t understand.

... Hold up. The God of Light is the Destruction God and the God of Darkness is the Evil God, the heck? That’s the first time I’ve ever heard that! There’s even a god called the Creation God? And he’s at the level of creating existence? Please don’t spout off something so crazy like it’s nothing...

“Aah, but I have my own policies though! I like to play my games with a few

handicaps."

"... Should I ask about them? What do you mean by handicaps?"

"Ufufu, there's quite a few, but if I were to put it simply... I favor children that please me. I don't get off on killing them, I actually give them blessings so that they won't die."

They've gotta be curses...

"I use some of my time to make sure that those children get strong and wise. I hope they'll be able to kill me some day. So then when they do get strong enough to kill me, I'll harvest them... Aah, I can't wait! It's my dream to turn those darlings that'll someday get strong enough to kill me into pets unable to do anything but resent and vilify me! I just can't wait to see what'll happen when I still love on them... Hah hah!"

"That kind of love's a bit much, kind of ruins the mood... was that called yandere?"

"Keima-san, I'll raise your strength to the limit if you decide to be a candidate to be one of my pets. How about it, want to sign the contract?"

"Sorry, but I'll decline."

"Ah, unfortunate. Unexpected even, there's a lot of people that want to get strong so much that they would even sell their soul to a demon. I'd put the probability at those who sign the contract with me after I offer it at about 80%, even. Ah, I also keep my promises. That's another one of my policies."

"... Leona, you're a demon?"

"Oh dear, to call such a sweet and innocent human girl a demon... How praiseworthy. Well, there are a few heretics revering and worshiping me as the [Chaos God] or something, so I might actually be a demon."

What a no-good girl, I have to do something and do it quick... but I can't turn this into a fight.

"So then, it's your turn now, Keima-san. As someone in a similar situation as me, what do you desire in this world? I might even make you my companion if you want half of the world."

By similar situation, she's probably referring to how I'm two things that should be hostile toward each other, how I'm both a Dungeon Master and a Hero.

Still though, my desire? I've already figured that out.

"I don't want something outrageous like half the world. I just want to sleep in peace of mind."

"Oh, how lovely. I think having a simple dream like that is nice. If you ignored how f*cking boring it is, I mean."

"Thanks for the compliment. I think your dream's amazing, too—if you took out how ridiculously troublesome it sounds."

"Now that you mention it, it is troublesome. Yeah, we're already friends! Better yet, we're already close friends!"

"You do know that I'm not going to pay any friend charge or sign that contract, right?"

"Aw, unfortunate. Well, alright, Haku-san's already paying for it anyway. This place is Haku-chan's favorite, so I promise to not wreck it."

So Haku-san's paying some kind of friend charge... oh, is that why she's had to hunt and attack dungeons for a long time? So that means... no, let's stop there. It's just my imagination.

"Well then, I'm going to be living here in the dungeon for a while. I'll take some strolls now and then, but you don't mind, do you?"

"... I don't mind since you look more or less like a human, but please don't say anything that could cause trouble, alright? That includes to your grandkids."

"It's the same for the Succubi, though. They aren't any different from humans if they just hide a few things. Like that waitress girl you have over there... ooh? Why's her attack power at 0? That's suuuuper interesting!"

"Cut it out."

With that, Leona snapped her fingers again. The surrounding clamor returned.

"Well, thanks for the meal. Put some rice in our provisions next time, okay?"

"I'll consider it."

Returning her dishes now that she finished eating, Leona left the dining room.

"... Holy crap, I thought I was going to die..."

I suddenly started sweating.

I might've even fainted if I had [Blackout Resistance] set to OFF.

... I need to start using [Super Transformation] even here in the inn from now

on, don't I?

I ate my now-cold dinner and returned to my room.

By the way, after turning into the Succubi's meal, Setsuna and Nayuta rolled out of the dungeon with vacant eyes the next morning. Well, our Golems were what rolled them out though.

Try not to catch a cold out there alright?

Chapter 235 – The Anti-Leona Strategy Meeting

I decided to call the dungeon's executives together to hold an Anti-Leona Strategy Meeting.

The participants are me, Rokuko, Meat, Ichika, and the three monster girls. Succubus Ring Neru is here on Meat's finger, too.

My identity was found out, so it suddenly feels like there's a knife to my throat—more like a guillotine—and I've already went through something dangerous...

"Because of all that, our goal is the dungeon's survival and Leona's expulsion."

As a result of talking with Leona... I figured out how much of a hedonist she is—or maybe it's better to say she's living in the now for her future—and well, I don't want to be involved at all. At any rate, I now understand that she has a troublesome personality.

Her actions are entirely based off of whether or not something is amusing.

"Still though, the Last Boss, is it?"

"Yeah, Rokuko. That's what Leona told me. It almost sounded like a bluff though."

Having seen the recording of it, Rokuko blinked in surprise when I responded to what she said.

"Huh? Why's that? She looked pretty enthusiastic about it to me."

"It was like she was trying to persuade herself... it just looked like acting to me. She'd even obviously prepared it all beforehand, seeing as how there weren't any logical fallacies. Maybe what she's thinking deep down is quite the opposite. To to hurry up and kill her or something. The Last Boss is an existence that is eventually overthrown, after all."

"... Umm, really?"

"If not, she wouldn't be giving herself those handicaps and playing around, she'd be doing whatever she wants and dominating the world."

Hmm? But Leona's already threatening Haku-san, the empire's top dog. Maybe she's already finished with her world domination? Well, whatever.

"By her deliberately saying [want to become], not 'if' or 'when', she's holding her ground... as Leona."

"Troublesome, isn't she..."

"Seriously."

It's not like she's trying to think about how to become the Last Boss, but rather that she's going to end up as one. The strange part is that she said that she wants to become it despite herself knowing that it would be like that. It appears that she's hiding something, but I don't really feel like figuring out what that something is. At any rate, she herself is aiming to be the incarnation of selfishness itself, so it's probably something dumb.

Whether it's the truth or a lie, it doesn't change the fact that she might just explode at any moment. The best option for us is to get her to leave as soon as possible.

"As Haku-san said, Leona likely won't kill us, so we can be a bit bullish about it."

"Kehma, why do you think she won't kill us?"

"Because [it wouldn't be interesting]. It'd be over if she killed us. She'll go with the way that leaves us with some hope. [It would be interesting]."

Seeing as how Haku-san told us to [kill Leona if you get the chance], that's probably how it is. I don't think that she'd ever put Rokuko into a dangerous situation.

And I don't think Leona would approve, either.

"Kehma's amazing. Even after listening to it all I didn't understand any of that!"

"Yeah... It feels like she did something when I met her. I started understanding Leona for some reason. I feel sick. I'm also having trouble thinking right... Neru. Please check to see if there's some condition on me. I don't even care if you have to possess me for it."

[Kaaay. But what if the point of what she did was to get you to say you don't care?] "It might have been a passive skill that improved our affinity with each other, or maybe some kind of persuasion-type skill that could convey your

intentions to another person easier... Ichika, do you know about any skills like that?"

"Not that I've heard about. It wouldn't be weird if there were skills rulers could learn that ordinary adventurers didn't know about though. If Goshujin-sama says so, there's gotta be a possibility. There's not in the catalog?"

"None from what I saw, but it's not like every skill is listed on the catalog... Rokuko, please send a letter to Haku-san and check."

"Alright. There's probably going to be other stuff to tell her, so I'll wait to write it until after we're done."

If it's a skill with the effect of allowing the user's and the target's consciousnesses to be tuned to one another, I think that there'd have to be some other adverse effects. Even if it seems mostly harmless on the surface, just having someone know the way you think is, in a way, dangerous.

... That might also have been why Haku-san [make sure that Rokuko-chan doesn't get seen by Leona. It'll corrupt her]...

However, even so, we're now meeting to set up our Leona countermeasures. Setting up measures against someone we know should be easier than otherwise.

"Master. I understand we're considering countermeasures here, but what if we went with [Doing Nothing]? To be accurate, make it so that nothing happens. We'll have her realize that this place is boring and let her grow bored. Wouldn't she leave of her own will?"

"Rei, you're definitely on the right track... but it's too late for that."

Leona has clearly shown interest in me. She'd also taken an interest in Rei during our conversation.

Even excluding that, Nayuta and Setsuna are here at our dungeon, same with Meat. I doubt she'd get bored of staying here.

... I absolutely don't want Meat to meet Leona.

Setsuna and Nayuta said that Meat is a [Toy], so the reason Meat can't remember her past is probably because Leona did something to her. If she met with Leona and they were unsealed, what would happen to the current Meat? I could solve it all since she's under my control as my slave, but I don't even want to think about it. If she resented me for turning her into a hug pillow and want

to stab and kill me or something, it'd be a pretty big shock.

... Rather, if she regained her memory that she's Leona's grandkid and that made her be like Leona... yeah, that'd also be a shock.

"Then maybe it would be a good idea to have something else she's interested in happen somewhere else?"

"Maybe Haku Ane-sama could do something?"

"That would be scary in a number of ways. On the other hand, the amount we'd be indebted to our neighbor (Ontentoo) by pushing her onto him would be awkward."

"... How about we win over Setsuna and Nayuta and talk with them to get them to lure Leona to some other place?"

"Oh, that's a pretty good idea, Rokuko."

As expected of my partner. She can do it if she tries!

"Come to think of it, what were Setsuna's and Nayuta's Leona countermeasures? Looks like it wasn't too effective seeing as how they were dealt with pretty quick, though. Do you know they'd planned, Kinue-san?"

"Yes. It appears that they've procured various things that Leona hates... Seeing the recording, it appears that they weren't able to take those things out, though.

"... Things Leona hates, huh. I kind of want that information too, so maybe it would be better to win them over as allies? ... Getting them to go to the [Avarice Lodge] so that I can talk to them with Euma each and every time is troublesome, after all. So, Nerune. Talk with them about being someone from the dungeon. Be the middleman. Speak about us only ever ambiguously, decide how much you should say depending on how it's going."

"Got it~"

Setsuna said that she was a Dungeon Core's child, so we should be able to talk a bit about what's going on for us.

And as for why I chose Nerune... that's because Nerune has been getting along with them the best as an employee. Rei feels like their boss, Kinue-san feels like an older sister, and Meat and Ichika have some circumstances stopping them from doing it. There's not too much of a difference, but Nerune is the closest to them. Her naive appearance seems to have an influence on it, too.

Also, the one least likely to make a mistake is Nerune. Rei has some thoughtless moments...

“Now then, Meat.”

“... Yes.”

“Let’s ask again. You are what to me?”

“A faithful horse.”

“Wrong. You are my hug pillow... so you don’t need to be a fighter. You won’t be making a move this time so that you don’t get stolen... but even if you are stolen, come back to me. As my hug pillow.”

“... Yes.”

Meat nodded, her face blushing a little.

I will continue to emphasize that she is my hug pillow till the very end.

Assuming Meat has some of Leona’s brainwashing and training in her, there’s a good chance it will activate with her as a [Slave] or as a [Fighter]. Even if there’s something there, it’d be great if her being a [Hug Pillow] works as a loophole.

“It’s okay, Meat. You’re Kehma’s hug pillow right? Then you can just leave everything to Kehma!”

“Yes, Rokuko-sama.”

“I’ll also be leaving it all to Kehma this time.”

... Well, that’s good. It’s better that I don’t let Rokuko and Meat meet Leona.

“For the time being, we’ll talk with Setsuna and Nayuta and try collecting some things Leona isn’t too good against.”

With that, [Operation Eject Leona From the Cave of Desires] began.

Rokuko was the one to name the operation, it had nothing to do with me!

Chapter 236 – [Operation Eject Leona], Begin

Setsuna and Nayuta, who'd both fallen into rather a unbecoming appearance, sent back to the inn, they woke up on the afternoon of that day and regained their senses.

The adventurers that first found them were Gozoh and Roppu, so I guess it's a good thing it ended with the minimum exposure for them? Well, I'm the one that caused it though.

When they woke up after being played around with (very, very much so)—

“Uwaah! Ah-haah... dangit! We got beat again...”

—it seemed like they'd gotten used to it.

As for what they looked like after being toyed with by the Succubi, it appeared they didn't care at all. I don't know if it's because they were used to this kind of thing or if it was just them being used to Leona, though.

Just to be sure, I gave them a day off and made use of the opportunity by having Nerune go to visit them. With the purpose of talking about the dungeon, of course.

“Setsuna, I'm actually a spy from the dungeon~”

“Oh, I thought so.”

And that's how anticlimactically it went.

The one who brought her to meet me as [Euma] back in the beginning was Nerune, after all. It seems like Setsuna started questioning the possibility of it when Nerune waltzed through the dungeon so naturally.

Nerune was holding a stone (Stone Golem) that could greet them with Euma's voice for proof just in case, but she didn't even have to use it.

“And because of all that, we want Leona out of here~... we'll let you meet her again if you cooperate~”

“... We've already met her two, no three times and wanted to definitely have her take an attack from us this time, but that didn't work out...”

“We can give you our cooperation too~?”

“Umm...”

“Cooperation, we’ll give it to you~”

“... If possible, I’d like the chance to punch Grandma with your cooperation to meet her. That you will grant my wish of hitting her in her body or head... promise me.”

“I’ll consult with my superiors, then~”

It looks like they hadn’t been planning on somehow encountering her by chance, they’ve already challenged her several times.

Let’s start preparing a trap that takes her views into account.

“By the way, what about Nayuta-san~?”

“Nayuta wanted to have Grandma teach her how to cure Papa who’s been sleeping continuously... so her wish more or less came true. It sounds hard, though.”

I see. She really did tell her how to cure him... it’s just that a Philosopher’s Stone is required for it.

“So, does Leona have any weak points or things she’s not good at dealing with~?”

“Aah, un. They are—”

*

Several days passed.

Leona hadn’t really made any movements. Rather, she was basically only ever flirting with the Succubi in self-indulgence. Rokuko didn’t let me have anything to do with her surveillance because of that, so I had Nerune and Kinue-san do it since neither of them would get worked up by any of it.

Ah, Rei had only watched through the openings between her fingers with her face covered by her hands, so I took her off that duty.

And since there aren’t any adventurers that can make it to Succubus Village, it’s practically just an ordinary village that I have to support with food.

I tried having them sculpt [Wood Carvings] as item drops for the dungeon as a side job, but they only ever managed to sculpt things that looked like matsutake mushrooms for some reason. Basically just ‘miss’ items... they did say they were great as massage tools though. [1]

Well, with things playing out like that, once I was done arranging traps after referencing the information we got from Setsuna, we were ready to begin [Operation Eject Leona From the Cave of Desires].

The strategy's outline was simple.

—Have Leona decide to leave the dungeon of her own will.

It all boiled down to that since there's no way we could manage anything with our own power. We'd somehow seize her weakness, as well as use Setsuna. It's a pretty ambiguous plan, but thanks to Setsuna's information, it all fell into place.

"And that's why I asked Nerune to ask Setsuna, the Leona specialist, what she was bad with... but eggplant? She hates eggplant? ... I mean, I don't like it either... but really? Eggplant?"

"It's not good to be picky, Kehma. It's bad for your health!"

There were various other things as well, but what she hated the most were eggplants.

In truth, when I tried out including an eggplant with the supplies I sent to them, Leona immediately leapt back from the box the instant she saw an eggplant in it. She wouldn't even get close to it after that and had the Succubi deal with dispose of it (properly, as food).

And the succubus who ate it wasn't allowed to even come close to Leona that day.

According to Leona,

[I don't hate eggplants, I actually love them. But I am [Abstaining from Eggplants] and praying for world peace. So if I eat an eggplant, the world will have a crisis, okay? Ah, sorry, but I seriously can't kiss a mouth that's eaten an eggplant, so please get away from me.]

It seems to be like that. The world has become something that can be saved with eggplants.

By the way, the Succubus ate the eggplant gladly. It looks like Succubi love stuff like mushrooms, eggplants, and cucumbers. The Ring Succubus Neru said it so it's probably not wrong.

"She really hates it huh. But she didn't throw it away, she's pretty mindful,

isn't she?"

"Not wasting food is probably one of her handicaps... how Japanese of her."

Even though she's been in this world for five hundred years... ah, maybe the reason she doesn't waste food is because she's had a bad food situation here? Japan is filled with food after all~

"But Leona's also a Dungeon Master, couldn't she just replenish her stocks of food whenever she wants... huh? Come to think of it, can Leona use DP too?"

"I haven't seen her use it... why?"

"I don't get it. I mean, she said it was the first time she'd eaten rice in a long time."

She's been using the [Super XX] Hero skills left and right, but she hasn't used any dungeon functions... did something weird happen? Or is it another handicap?

Hmm, this girl has way too many mysteries.

Chapter 237 – Preparations

That day, Leona was taking a stroll about Succubus Village. Though I say that, she didn't exactly walk far, seeing as how the place the village was in was just a single dungeon floor. It looked like a spacious meadow, but it had walls and a ceiling.

'There's nothing new to see...' is what she thought, but then she suddenly found a red button sitting on a rectangular pedestal coming up from the ground.

"Oh? Was this here before?"

Not pausing at all, Leona pressed the button.

"...? Nothing's happening."

Click. Click, click click.

Leona pressed the button repeatedly.

Cli-click, click, clickity click click click. She even started trying to press it sixteen times per second, but even then nothing happened.

[Oi Leona, what're you doing?]

And then a Golem appeared.

"Oh, Kehma-sa—Golem-san. Well, I was pressing this button here."

[... You pressed it?]

"... Yeah?"

[How many times? ... Mm, fifty-two times eh? Kay then, here ya go.]

"Eh, what're you gonna give me?"

He dropped an eggplant into Leon's outstretched hand.

"... I don't want them...!"

[Sorry, it's one of this dungeon's rules. Someone who presses this button here has to eat an eggplant... Alright, here's the four others.]

"Such a weird rule, change it!"

[You want me to change it? Oh well then. Then you'll have to give me something in exchange... how about five Philosopher's Stones instead of the

eggplants? You can make them at the drop of a hat right? I'd like to experiment.]

"Sure, here."

Five Philosopher's Stones—alchemic treasures—tumbled across the ground. They weren't worth any different than simple rocks to Leona.

[Ah, thanks.]

"Seriously, why'd you suddenly make such a weird rule?"

[I made it since the Succubi wanted to eat eggplants. I'll just remove this button then~]

With a rustling sound, the Golem removed the button along with its pedestal from the ground. It then slung it over its shoulder like it was just carrying a plank.

[Listen here, if you got discouraged by this, go and try pressing some more buttons whenever. Absolutely press them!] [1]

With the Golem telling her not to press buttons, it left without waiting for a reply.

"..."

Leona smiled.

*

"She should definitely press the next button she comes across now."

"Well, she'll definitely press them after you told her to press them like that."

... Did it turn into that because of the translation function?

"Just to say it, what I told her was to not press them. It's an intentional mistranslation that feels like a scheme. Leona—who's also a Hero—should hear it as-is in Japanese, though."

"Eh, what? She'll press them even though you told her not to press them...?"

"She'll definitely press them."

Leona's weak points. That is, [Eggplants] and [Promises]... rather, [Clichés]. [2] She keeps her promises, all the more so when they are clichés . In that case, it's a definite thing.

While on the topic, my saying [Absolutely press them!] was a [Cliché] to the point that the translation function mistranslated it. With that, Leona's pressing of the next button she comes across is virtually a sure thing.

"With this, the foundation for Leona catching herself in the trap has been laid. Next is making the instakill trap... well, it won't kill her, but it should at least drive her out."

Still though, I wound up getting a hold of these Philosopher's Stones in the preparation stage.

I was expecting for it to blow over as a joke, but it looks like Leona really does treat them as the same worth as pebbles...

... Maybe I should've asked for fifty-two of them? Well, no point in crying over spilt milk.

"... Should we try turning one into DP?"

"Oh, wait. Don't... I get the feeling that they'd be 10 DP at most."

Rokuko stopped me when I tried to convert a Philosopher's Stone into DP as a treasure.

She's gotten to the point of being able to know how much DP a treasure is before crushing it? Just when did that happen...

"Hm? The heck, is it a fake?"

"I don't know, but I get the same kind of feeling with Kehma's Ring? It's just a guess, but I think it might be because it didn't take much time or effort to make? Like you get proportional DP to the effort it takes."

I see, so it's the same as the DP-light magic sword blade golems I made... Conversely, when I raised those beets and turned them into sugar, the value of those cheap seeds went up after I put so much time and effort into them. It's that kind of feeling.

Ooh, now that I think of it, that DP-raising method about raising a Jewelled Turtle that Haku-san taught me did take up quite some time, didn't it?

"Leona's able to make them from any old rock right? But they still function normally. It's like that."

"I see..."

In that case, maybe I should give one to Nayuta? ... is what I thought, but I

don't really have a reason to actually give her one.
I got it from Leona after taking great pains to do so myself, so I should use it for my own sake. Just giving it away is no good.
But Nayuta doesn't have anything I actually need. Even her gun is a defective prototype... maybe some freshly used socks?

"... Eh, wait. You tried crushing the ring I gave you?"

"Hueh!? N-no, Kehma! Haku Ane-sama said she wanted to buy the ring for 100,000,000 DP, so I was like 'I wonder how much it's worth~' and just started thinking about—ah, I obviously turned her down though, you know that right!? Don't worry, I really definitely absolutely wouldn't betray your love and trade it in for money or DP! So, umm, right! Let's sleep together tonight!"

"Wait wait wait, STAHPHU, STAHPHU." [3]

I calmed down Rokuko, who'd started panicking for some reason.
... 100,000,000 DP though, woah. But Rokuko's also amazing for actually turning that down. If it were me, I would've sold it. I could've used that to buy a bed and a luxurious life of indolence.

"I wouldn't have minded if you sold it for a 100,000,000 DP though, I could've made another."

"It's the ring I got from you though! There's no way I could sell it. Don't say something so mean... Muuu..."

Rokuko pouted.
... And now I'm thinking this girl's naturally adorable.
It's just a ring to me, but for Rokuko, I guess it's something important she got from me.

"Hey, Kehma... I wonder, umm, a Dungeon Core and a human, they can make kids, right? Taking Setsuna as an example, they can, right? How do they make kids?"

"That's not a story for right now, alright? Oookay, let's change topics~!"

Ask Haku-san about something like that... no, actually please just forget about it and never ask anyone. It'd get me killed.
But still, Rokuko's in this state... did Leona do something to her? I really do have to rush Leona out of here or I'm not going to live for long.

"Really Kehma, you don't have to get shy. We're in a relationship, aren't we?"
"Yeah, we're partners."

I once again strengthened my determination to drive Leona out.

"... So you made that Leona-use floor after all? There are a lot of things you made that I don't understand though."

"Yeah. I made sure to prepare a chance for Setsuna to get an attack in on Leona too."

With that, my preparations are in order.

Next, I'll be sending Leona to the specially-made floor and do something to her.

... As soon as Setsuna's preparations are ready, it's go time.

"Nerune, how's going on their side?"

"I gave the weapons I got from Master to them~, they're probably ready whenever~? They were practicing with the weapons they got~"

"In that case, we'll start the operation tomorrow."

I decided to do one last look-over of the Leona-use floor.

I really just wanted to sleep to prepare for tomorrow, but it looks like Rokuko would get into my bed if I tried sleeping now, so I don't think I'd be able to sleep in more than one meaning...

Chapter 238 – Commencement

“Today’s weather is pretty good.”

Waking up in the morning, Leona walked outside her cabin and stretched. Inside her hut was the thick, sweet fragrance of Succubi. It was good to the point that she’d started getting groggy and even fell asleep while loving on the Succubi, but today she felt fully revitalized.

As if to say that this was a place they could live peacefully, the Succubi were fully enjoying their life of little work and adequate food. They were still completely on guard a few days before, but they’d already grown lax.
‘... There’s so much free time...’ is what Leona thought.

“Maybe I should use [Short Teleportation] and play around in the village... nn?”

Just then, she saw a suspiciously red button.

... The last time she’d pushed a button, she suddenly had eggplants appear over her head. But there’s no way she could do something as boring as not push it. She hesitated for just a moment, but a pair of Succubi just happened to be passing by. It was Suira and Michiru.

“Suira, Michiru. One of you, please press this button.”

“Huh? What does the button do, Leona-sama?”

“Kay! Like this? ...!?”

Seeing Suira tilt her head to the side in doubt, Michiru pressed the button without reservation.

With that, a hole opened up in the ground and not only Michiru, but even Leona and Suira, fell into it.

“Hyaaaah! What just happened!?”

“Kyaah! Leona-samaaaaaa!”

“Oh wow, it’s much more extensive than I thought it’d be.”

The pitfall trap that had practically reached the point of being a slide led to a place with a mat placed out in front of it.

The three of them fell onto the large white mat in a dimly lit room.

“Uuu, what happened? What was that?”

“A pitfall trap... I think? Leona-sama, what was it?”

“You had it, it’s a trap!”

Leona looked happy.

[Ladies and gentleme—... ah, just ladies! Well, ladies, welcome to today's brand new floor!] [1]

It was a voice that sounded like it went through a loudspeaker—Euma's voice. At the same time, lights lit up the floor. They were in a small room. Other than the mat they'd fallen butt-first onto and the door right in front of them with a banner that said [Starting Point] in this world's language, the room looked relatively ordinary.

Having greeted the three, Euma then appeared wearing a yellow bow tie and holding a microphone. The bow tie was made out of a shiny yellow cloth that sparkled and looked very much like something that belonged on a ridiculous party host.

“Golem-san! What's going on? Is this a trap!?”

[Fu fu fu, calm down, Michiru. Truthfully, I had a thought: I made a new floor, so I should give it a trial run... As the person who pressed that button, you did notice the agreement noted nearby it, correct?]

“I did not!”

[Really? Alright, then you may take the stairs to your right if you want to leave.]

Euma pointed to a wall. With a rumbling sound, a hole opened up in it and a stairway appeared.

[... So, assuming Michiru will be heading back, what about you two?]

“Ah, I'm so doing it. This looks interesting.”

“Leona-sama!? ... I-I'll accompany you...!”

“Y-yeah... if Onee-sama is going to, I'll...”

[You're going to join in then, Michiru? In that case, all three of you, step riiight up! Please, head into the next room.]

Euma opened the [Starting Point]'s door and bowed in a respectful gesture, urging them on. As for it having such human traits despite being a Golem, the

three of them just let it slide as it being the usual.

Getting accustomed to a Golem talking in the first place was weird enough.

The first room was an abrupt slope. It was even at a steep angle, as well as having water flow down it. At the top of the slope was a door, the door heading to the following room.

Taking a side path at some point in time, Euma was already standing next to that door.

[Now then, their first trial... The Slope! Will these challengers be able to reach the door at the slope's summit!?]

“Can’t you do something with your naming sense?”

[Ooh, that’s a good question, Leona-san... I’m open for suggestions!]

“I’ll think about it. So what kind of trial is this supposed to be?”

Hearing Leona’s question, Euma gave a short nod.

[Hmm. As you can see, this slope is incredibly slippery. I’m sorry for test-takers, but it is an AMAZINGLY! SLIPPERY! SLOPE!] [2] “I see, so it’s a very severe trial to test-takers...”

“Umm, Leona-sama, Golem-san. What does that ‘test-takers’ thing have to do with the slope?”

[The bottom of this slope has a pitfall! It’s game over if you slip, followed by a punishment game!]

“Kuuu! It’s so slippery you’d definitely slide down it! It really is severe! Sorry, test-takers!”

“Excuse me!? Just what do those ‘test-takers’ have to do with this trap!?”

Leona and Euma ignored Suira as they grew ever more excited. Also unable to understand the reason, Michiru tilted her head to the side.

[Well, you just have to not slip. Got it? Alright then, oh challengers, make sure you don’t fail this trial, for the sake of all the test-takers the world over—those of other worlds included—and break through it!]

Saying that, Euma disappeared beyond the door.

“... Umm, Leona-sama? Just what’s going on?”

“Fufufu, this is the first time I’ve been excited in a long time! Oh hoh hoh, this water has some viscosity to it! Both of you, calm down and be careful as you go

up the slope! Hey, Michiru. You're the lightest, so how about you go first?"

"Alright, Leona-sama! Onee-sama, you come on too."

"Y-yeah..."

Careful so that they wouldn't slip, the three began to make their way up the slope.

*

"So, Kehma, what's going on?"

Once the three started going up the slope, Rokuko asked me a question.

"What do you mean 'what'? It's what it looks like, a slope. Ah, I didn't use the Tentacle Slime's mucus this time though."

"Un, I get that part. I'm more wondering why you'd set up such a nonsensical trap in such a nonsensical place."

Right, I was going with testing out a new floor as the pretext, but far from the current pitfall traps, it was questionable if it was even fatal, given the mats laid out.

Moreover, after this, the traps... traps? I mean, the people they're meant for aren't supposed to be adventurers in the first place. There's even trials like [Can you guess what's inside just by feeling it?], for example. Adventurers are people that would ignore instructions and look right on inside the hole. Rather, they would even go so far as to try heading straight through the door and ignore the box entirely.

"Well, yeah, to put it simply... including the mic performance, I was setting up the mood."

"The mood?"

"The trial I made will probably keep Leona enjoying herself with the rules I set up. However, that will only stay true so long as she's having fun. In other words, these are simply my opening moves for setting up the final trap... Ah, and Setsuna will be prepared along the way."

"Umm, so you're entertaining her so that she'll walk into the trap willingly?"

"Yeah, exactly. You hit the nail on the head."

With all that, this is another one of Leona's treasure trove of [Clichés]... the reproduction of a variety game show.

Suiru and Michiru are with her as well, but her bringing Succubi with her was well within my expectations. Let's switch their route to one that has multi-people attractions, sit back, and watch.

"Well now, why don't we just enjoy the show as Leona and the others play themselves right into our hand?"

"Play themselves into it, hmm?"

When Rokuko looked at the monitor, Leona was smiling as she caught a hold onto Suira, who was about to slip.

Chapter 239 – No Stopping Until There’s a Punishment Game!

After the slope were trials like a Tarzan rope, rock climbing wall, and a wall you had to pass through while maintaining a given pose. But Leona made it through all of them in high spirits.

So now, what stood before Leona and them now was a trial much unlike those prior.

“Hyaah! I-it moved!? D-do I really have to put my hand in it!? I-is it a living thing!?”

“Ah, the rule is that we can’t tell you the answer. Do your best, Michiru!”

“Not even a hint? Uuu, how frustrating!”

Michiru was nervous as she thrust her hand into the box whose contents she couldn’t see. Only one face of the box was open-faced, which allowed Leona and Suira, who were sitting right in front of that face, to see inside. Well, it’s one of those popular ‘guess the contents’ game.

By the way, I put a mandarin orange in it. Did it move, or did it just tumble about? That second-guess inducing nature is used often.

“Frog, it’s a frog!”

[Whoops, unfortunate, you’re wrong~! The correct answer was ‘mandarin orange’!]

“Eeh, no way, that can’t be it! It moved!”

[Now for the punishment game. Come in~]

With that, a Golem entered the room. It was wearing black tights for no reason in particular and held a paper fan-shaped slapstick in its hands.

“E-eh, wai—who’s that!? ... Ow!”

It made a great slapping sound when it struck the top of Michiru’s head. The sound itself was rather loud, but it didn’t really do any damage-like damage to her.

Now that Michiru had been struck, the Golem withdrew.

[Alright, here's your consolation candy. Next challenger, step right up~]

“Yaaay, a candy~! Om nom.”

“Ah, I’ll go up next, Leona-sama.”

I switched the contents in the box when Suira was getting ready. This time, it was a pear.

Suira felt it up. After seeing what Michiru looked like a bit before, she probably thought that being hesitant wouldn’t work out. Doing it this way was much more efficient than being timid, it’s the right way to go about it.

“I got it. It’s a pear.”

[Amazing, that is correct! Boom boom bang bang~! Ah, here’s the pear as your reward.]

“Isn’t that just what you had inside it?”

Like that, Suira got the correct answer without anything too interesting happening. And so it was finally Leona’s turn.

Naturally, I prepared a special item for Leona.

“It’s finally my turn! ... I wonder what’s inside?”

Leona quickly put her hand into the hole on the box’s side. Using that timing, I made it so that the other two could see what was inside the box.

“Eh, wait, is that alright?”

“W-wow... eh, we can’t give any hints, alright? But do your best, Leona-samaaa~!”

“Craaap! So this is the pattern where the third person gets something weird!? Gaah, what is it!? A snake? A frog? Or maybe a human head!?”

[Buh-boo! Wroooong~. Time for the punishment game~]

With that, the slapstick-wielding Golem made another appearance.

“Eh, ah, wait, that just now wasn’t my answer! Eh, I can’t?”

[You answered with your hand in the box, so it’s an answer.]

“The heck’s that! At least let me answer properly!”

[... Oh well, I’ll let you have one more try since you’re whining about it. So, your answer~?]

“Kaay! Hmm, what is it...”

The slapstick-wielding Golem stepped back unwillingly. Leona fumbled her hand about in the box once again.

She could feel something with her hand. It felt soft, jiggly... her fingers seemed to press into it if she put any strength into them... was it a big fluid steam bun?

“Eh, wait, it’s food? Ah, that’s not my answer!”

[I wonder? That’d be a hint~. Ah, but if I had to say, I wouldn’t eat it... but I’m a Golem after all!]

“Ahaha, something a Golem wouldn’t eat huh~.... Hmm, this feeling...”

It felt like it would deform itself to her fist and felt comfortable to the touch. Leona felt it tremble. There’s no mistaking it, it was alive. It was a living thing.

“... Is it a Slime?”

[Is that... your final answer?]

“It is!”

A drum roll suddenly started to play out of nowhere.

[... ...]

“... ...”

A dozen or so seconds passed with them staring at each other. Once it started to feel like it might go on for too long, a ‘Ta-daaa!’ sound played as the drum roll ceased.

[Unfortunate! The correct answer was ‘Jelly’!]

“So close!! But wait, isn’t a Slime good enough!? It’s super close to a Jelly!”

[Yeah, that’s why I let you try again. You would have gotten it if you said them both over the two tries. But alas, you got it wrong. You missed a 50% chance after losing the 100% chance, what an incredibly fair contest it was~. Alright then, time for the punishment game.]

The slapstick-wielding Golem appeared for a third time. Standing next to Leona, it resolutely held up the slapstick.

“Kyaah~♪ Be gentle with m—kyaah... hauu♪”

The slapstick came down onto Leona’s head with a loud bang.

... The Golem and Leona stopped moving for a moment afterwards as though to enjoy the moment, but both started to move immediately upon hearing the

Host's, Euma's, voice.

[Alright, good job, Golem-san. Leona, here's your participation prize candy. Please move on to the next room through the door to your right.]
“Kaaay~. Let's go, Suira, Michiru!”
“” Okay, Leona-sama! “”

Leona and the rest headed into the next room in high spirits.
Moreover, the next room's trial was piping hot oden. [1]

*

After Leona and the others left, the slapstick-wielding Golem put its hands to its head and slowly detached it.

... To be exact, it was Setsuna taking off a paper mache Golem helmet.

“Puah! Aah, that Golem head was so hot...”
“Good work, Setsuna-san~”

In order to set up an opportunity for Setsuna to get a hit in on Leona, I prepared the rule that the Golem would [Strike the person's head with a slapstick if they lost as a punishment game].

Leona kept avoiding the punishment game, but she finally had one. Unexpectedly, Suira hadn't been missing either. Even for Michiru, that was her first punishment game.

Also unexpectedly, they were also able to make it through the physical-type variety games since Leona was supporting them... Well, after trying so many random things to make her have a punishment game, I finally prepared a trial that had a practically fixed loss.

With all that going on, we had Setsuna get inside a Golem. Then, we had her hit Leona on the head with the slapstick... In other words, the goal of Setsuna wanting to hit Leona was fulfilled.

Assuming her wish got fulfilled one-sidedly with this, I won't need to do something like cooling Leona down after attacking her. Otherwise, I'd have to show her Setsuna getting out from inside the Golem at some point.

... I hope she'll accept this as her wish being fulfilled.

“So, you did hit Leona with the slapstick~... was that enough~?”
“Mmm, I thought that it wouldn't be any good if I couldn't hit Grandma straight

up, but it feels like the curse has broken. I want to check, so could you help me take this off?"

"Yep yep, comes right off~"

Setsuna slipped out from inside the Golem with Nerune's help. Setsuna's clothes and skin were covered with sweat due to her wearing the paper mache suit the whole time while waiting for Leona to get a punishment game.

"Hmm... mm. Hmm..."

Setsuna felt around her body like she was groping herself.
It didn't look like anything had changed from the looks of it, but—

"... Un, the curse has lifted."

Setsuna's face grew delicate. The curse was lifted, but was there something else?"

"That's the most important thing~"

"Thank you, Nerune-san."

"Yeah~, now for our reward~? You can pay with your body if you want~"

"Un, I'll promise to do anything that I can do. I could even work for a month if you want."

"Hmmm~. I'll just try asking my superiors~... By the way, what did Leona do to you~?"

"... U-umm... M-my body has a secret..."

Setsuna squirmed as though she was embarrassed.
I wanted to ask as well. Just what did Leona do?

"I was cursed to believe that I was originally just an ordinary girl ...! She even made Nayuta think that!"

... Eh, you were like that from the start?

Heeee...

Chapter 240 – The Final Trial

It turned out that Setsuna was special by birth.

... No, there's also the possibility that this is just Leona causing yet another misunderstanding. For instance, she could keep her promise but also go with something roundabout like [I didn't say that I would restore you, I just said that I would do something].

Well, I guess it's unrelated to me. I don't particularly feel like bedding Setsuna or anything.

"So, Kehma. What next?"

"We've achieved our mid-goal of having Setsuna bop Leona on the head. Now we just need to entertain Leona a bit more and have her leave."

Alright then, let's entertain Leona a bit more with our expulsion strategy's final trial.

*

The Dragon Pond, a trial of collapsing footholds over a sea of magma—what was so hard about it, you ask? Well, we used actual magma so even the places you're supposed to stand were burning hot. Leona and the others easily made it through, entering the room of the [Final Trial].

With the room dark, the only thing visible was a Golem lit up by a spotlight.

[Now, it's finally time for our Final Trial. Your current score is... woooah! A record high of 960 Points~!]

Holding the microphone, the Golem gestured grandly with its arms. Now that they'd made it to the ending, they were also a bit reluctant, but—

"Hey, Onee-sama. Was there anything mentioned about points earlier?"

"I don't think so... to start with, even if it's a record, I'm pretty sure we're the first ones since we are here to check over the newly made floor's functions, Michiru."

"Really. You two, don't fuss over the details, okay?"

Setting aside the score that held no particular meaning, Leona and the others squared off before the final trial.

With a clap, the room lit up and the final trial came into sight.

[The Final Trial is... a True/False Quiz!]

There were two passage-like gates before them. One had a paper door with a [O] on it while the other had a [X].

[If you think the question you'll be hearing is correct, go through the [O] door! If you think it's wrong, go through the [X] door!]

"Oooh...! By the way, what happens when you choose the wrong door? Flour? Muddy water?"

[A pitfall trap that leads directly out of the dungeon. There shouldn't be a need to worry about any injuries. Getting something in your eyes might hurt though.]

"Hmm."

Leona appeared to be thinking about something. She was probably considering whether being right or being wrong would be more interesting.

[And if two out of the three of you answer correctly, since you will have succeeded 1000 Points—all of the Succubi will receive a one-year supply of their beloved eggplants! Moreover, as an extra special prize, I will award you a giant eggplant made out of stone!] [1]

With the design of [Eggplant Made to Look Like a Cow With Chopstick Legs], something often seen as Lantern Festivals, an actual cow-sized statue was carted out on top of a wagon. The reaction Leona had was very different compared to the two Succubi's.

"That's an eggplant!?"

"Ah, oh my, that eggplant cow... is super huge."

[By the way, it's also a storage for more eggplants!]

"" Oooh! ""

When the Golem opened the small window on its front, there were more eggplants within it, but that was all.

"... I have to get this right!"

"... I have to get this wrong...!"

Suiria and Leona clenched their fists.

And then looked into each other's eyes.

"... Leona-sama. A one-year's supply of eggplants is very attractive. Being able to eat eggplants every day would overjoy everyone in Succubus Village."

"Kuh, please spare me!"

[Hmm? What's this, a quarrel? You've all just barely been able to make it to this Final Trial together, so please stop. Or Leona, do you intend to break away and leave? It comes with a free travel set if you buy right now. I'll even throw in a portable Othello game.]

"... That works too. Suira. If you two answer correctly, I won't return to the village. Okay? At least not for a year, until the eggplants are all gone!"

"We traveled together to find a peaceful place to live, but if that's how it is, we can only part ways here..."

Egged on by the Golem, Leona gave them an ultimatum.

[Well then, I've placed the travel set in the loser's area, so use it how you will.]

"Huhuhu. So then, what's the question?"

[Ooh! Let's see, you only have one chance at answering the question due to the conditions of the set, so all three of you will have to dive into the one you think is correct at the same time... Alright, now for the question!]

Hurried by Leona, the Golem read the question aloud.

[This dungeon's name is [Cave of Hope]. True... or false!?]

The Golem gestured towards the doors.

... However, the group of three all tilted their heads to the side.

*

I tried making this as easy a True/False question as possible, but Suira, Michiru, and even Leona all looked clueless.

[... Umm, what was the name again?]

[I don't know!]

[Un, it's a really difficult question... I think I heard it at one point?]

Even though Leona would have chose the incorrect answer left the dungeon

of her own will... she doesn't know the right answer...?

"Hey Kehma. The answer is [X], right?"

"Yeah, it is... Well, you should obviously know it, but uhh, is it such a difficult question?"

"I guess they didn't care about knowing the name of the place they're living in? You don't really need to know the name of a dungeon to live in it!"

I guess that's true?

But crap. Seriously. The heck. Our strategy's success rate suddenly fell to 50%. I have to do something about this.

[Come to think of it, I did hear the name at one point. This dungeon is... un, cave of something. It definitely sounds like that's it.]

[I see, so there's a good chance that cave of hope is the correct answer then!]

[Then we just need to go into the [O] door to get the eggplants!]

With that, Michiru started crouching to jump forward. I decided to hurry up and stop them.

*

The Golem blocked Michiru, who was just about to start moving.

[Woah there, hold on, Michiru. Are you truly sure about your choice?]

"Eh, what do you mean?"

[Are you alright with deciding on your answer without hearing the hint?]

"Hint! There was one of those!? Please tell me it!"

[Sure. The other two can listen as well—]

With that, the Golem thought for a moment.

[—This cave has various traps. Among them are traps that became the origin of this cave's name. The room that cannot be left once the sword in its pedestal is taken is one of such traps. In that trap, a certain pair of adventurers—]

Then, while the Golem was talking—in a place the Golem could not see—a Clay Golem appeared.

It stood in front of the [X] door and made an [O] with its arms.

Next, it stood in front of the [O] door and made a [X] with its arms.

[Hmm? Is there something behind me?]

Following Leona and the others' eyes, the Golem slowly started looking behind itself. However, by the time it did so, the Clay Golem had already hidden itself.

[What, there's nothing there? Let's see, where was I...]

When the Golem turned its back back towards the gates, the Clay Golem appeared yet again. It repeated the same gestures again this time as though to confirm it. Then, it disappeared.

[—and that's what happened. Got it?]

The Golem asked in confirmation.

Leona nodded.

With that, breaking into a run—Suira and Michiru plunged into the [X] door, with Leona going into the [O] door.

Chapter 241 – The Beach

And so Leona jumped forward with her eyes closed, falling down and eventually rolling across sand.

When she opened her eyes, what she saw was a beach.

“... Oh? I really am outside, huh.”

She looked around. It wasn’t just a [room that looked like one] like that floor that was the Succubus Village, it was a true ocean, a beach.

A rucksack fell down. This was the travelling set. When she looked inside, she saw preserved food, a cup magic tool that could produce water, and a portable Othello game.

By the way, there was rice in the preserved food. Seeing that, she grinned.

“I see. So that’s all for this place, huh... now then, I wound up getting found by those girls too, so maybe it’s time I go for another journey~. Travelling wherever I want by myself for a while doesn’t sound so bad... but really, where am I?”

This place was definitely a beach. A place that had to be very far from the dungeon that dwelled within Tsuia Mountain. She had been moving a bit each time she broke through a trial, but if pushed she’d say that it was only like they were going in circles.

It had maybe four, no, nine rooms in a 3×3 grid, maybe? She felt like she was coming and going through the same rooms multiple times, just with their contents switched out.

“... Still though, for it to end there, kind of leaves a sour taste... nnn?”

With that, a piece of paper fell out of the rucksack. When she picked it up, it read, in Japanese: [Sorry! The correct answer was [Cave of Desires]!]... It felt like it was the first time she read Japanese in a long time.

“Oooh, come to think of it, that was the name.—Burn the paper, [Fireball].”

Giggling, Leona burned the page with magic.

“Now then, how about I go on a proper journey... I wonder where I’ll end up?”

Putting the rucksack away into her [Storage], she set out in a random direction.

"It's been so long since I had that much fun..."

Leona muttered to herself.

Her expression looked somewhat lonely, but she was smiling gently.

*

Leona left.

"... Haah. That was tiring."

"Good job, Kehma."

What made me tired was that I was talking through the Golem that whole time, so I'm seriously tired. Not in the usual way.

... I might be tooting my own horn here, but I was a pretty good host. Didn't expect that...

But still, with this, Leona has now been left at the Imperial Capital's beach . Even if she wants to come back, it should take her a while... well, it didn't seem like she wanted to though.

[Oooi, Kehma.]

"Hmm? Oh, Ontentoo? Sorry, you helped me out here a lot."

[No, it's alright. So this one's my win , yeah?]

"Oh? It should be one win, one loss now though?"

By the way, behind the scenes of our anti-Leona strategy, I held a Dungeon Battle between my sub-dungeon [White Beach] and Ontentoo's.

... To be exact, it was only a Dungeon Battle in the formal sense in that I had its gate left open to let Leona through and closed it by surrendering when she jumped through the gate.

I had Rei and Kinue manage the Dungeon Battle at [White Beach] while Nerune acted over here as a scene shifter. Rokuko and I were in the Master Room. Ichika and Meat were working at the inn.

[Still though, now I've won once yeah? Kukuku.]

"Yeah. I knew you were going to say that. But well, thanks?"

[What, it's fine. We even got one of those Philosopher's Stones, it has a great redness that even Redra's loving.]

As a reward for his help, I gave one of the Philosopher's Stones I got from Leona to Ontentoo. It feels like I just laundered something I got illegally, but let's just call it a Win-Win.

Ah, but as change for it, Ontentoo gave us a pretty big chunk of territory near our dungeon. Practically all of Tsuia Mountain is Ontentoo's territory, so we'd already expanded as close to them as we could. Getting some area we can expand the dungeon into in the future and store those props in helps a lot.

[Rather, what's up with that , Kehma?]

"That ?"

[Having a Dungeon Battle just for driving that so far away. You were wanting to have the Dungeon Battle for that, but when it entered our dungeon for just that instant, we saw that that seemed pretty crazy?]

"... Ah, Leona? She's something like a Dungeon Core and Dungeon Master combined? I don't know what core number she is though, I didn't ask."

[Eh? The heck.]

In the monitor, Ontentoo tilted his head. Yeah... even I had thought that.

[Alright then. Let's have a proper Dungeon Battle next time, yeah?]

"If I feel like it~"

"Ah, hold up, Kehma. There's something I want to ask 112 (Ontentoo)."

Rokuko interrupted as I tried to round up the conversation.

"112 (Ontentoo), do you have kids?"

[Eh? Kids?]

"Kids with Redra, you know, kids. Leona has grandkids, so I was wondering if anyone else did."

[Ooh, I do. The eldest is just about three hundred. I have grandkids too.]

Ah, so he does have kids and grandkids. First time I've heard about that. It's no wonder after seeing how love-love Redra and Ontentoo are... rather, maybe it is strange seeing as they react like newlyweds? Is it that [Fire Cavern]'s lovers are perpetually heatedly passionate with each other?

[Dragons live forever after all. They generally live until they're killed. There is that one guy that's still alive after dying though.]

"An Undead Dragon! I hadn't even thought of that!"

[Yeah. Well, there's even precedent of some living into the tens of thousands of years. I don't know how long cores can live, so maybe I'll die first? Ah, but we'll leave together when the time comes. Hahaha.]

"Otou-sama said we're immortal, but isn't even Core 1 just around six hundred?"

That scale's huge. Humans would be doing well to hit even one hundred.

[So, was that all you wanted to ask?] "No. Please tell me how Dungeon Cores can have children with other species."

[“Bufuu!?”]

Ontentoo and I both felt like something punched us in the gut.

[W-wha, what're you asking me!? Ask Redra that!]

"Ah, right. I'll bring Feni with me to go play again then."

[Wait, why'd you ask me!? Don't you have a reliable Nee-chan!? It'd obviously be better to ask another female human-type core!]

"But I can't since Keima said that I absolutely couldn't ask Haku Ane-sama about it."

So that's why she asked Ontentoo...? Who is she getting that unpredictable behavior from? Me? No way, I shouldn't be that bad.

"H-hold on, Rokuko... You wanting that information, could you be intending to have kids with me?"

When I asked that, Rokuko's face turned red as she looked up at me with upturned eyes.

"Changing the question, is there anyone else I could have them with?"

"That's not the problem though."

"... It's not like I'm wanting to have them right away or anything. But wouldn't it be troublesome if I didn't know how when the time came? Well, 112 (Ontentoo), cya later."

Rokuko turned away, her cheeks puffed out a little in anger.

[Y-yeah. Kehma, uhh, hmm. Be strong?]

"Yeah... well, uh... yeah."

I closed the communication with Ontentoo.

... Well, is it alright since she's not thinking about doing it right now? No, too much knowledge might incur Haku-san's wrath, I should stop there.

Eh? Before that, were Rokuko and I married?

Chapter 242 – Confirmation and a Trap

Now, Leona's gone, but it's not like I can sleep yet.
Because I still have to do the final confirmation.

With that, I went to [White Beach]. The footprints from where Leona had walked had almost completely vanished, but I guess she walked in that direction?

I went into the forest.

"Let's see, it was definitely this way... oh, a broken branch. Looks like she was here."

I went farther into the forest.

... Huh? What am I doing? Why did I go this far again?

No, yeah. I have to confirm. The final confirmation. Yeah.

I arrived in front of a cave. There were some burned areas, as well as bits of it still smoldering. It looks like she forcibly opened it up through some villainous magic, making an impromptu cave.

And my target was inside. Right, I could understand that from the details. This is why I came.

When I looked into the cave—Leona was spread out sitting on a futon, waiting.

Crap, I have to run! No, it's fine...!? The thoughts for [STOP] and [GO] lit up in my head at the same time.

W-wha-what the heck. My head's all mixed up.

"I was waiting ."

"—...."

Spoken to by Leona, I held my head. I was using [Super Transformation] today, it's alright. I have an extra life. Calm down.

"There's something you want to ask, right?"

"... Yeah. There is."

"Go ahead, I'll even teach you how to have fun and live for hundreds of years .

—Setsuna, Nayuta, the Toys, how to raise your skills, how to kill and deceive gods, even how to steal their powers, anything. Now, what do you want to ask first?”

“Leona, what era did you come from?”

“Oh?”

Leona smiled with a smile that said she hadn’t expected him to ask something so similar to asking her age.

But she probably wouldn’t have a problem with it—she was seventeen, after all.

“Well... let’s say it was an era that made today’s entertainment feel nostalgic. It was like that for you too, right?”

“... That so, well, I’m happy you liked it.”

“I really enjoyed it, enough so that I wanted to stay there for longer...”

Leona’s smile looked lonely. What she was thinking wasn’t something me, someone who won’t even live till five hundred, could understand.

“Which is why I felt that I definitely had to give you my thanks and call you here with this.”

Leona patted the futon... The Godly Comforter? I see, so that’s it? It looks like I was lured here by the Godly Comforter’s divinity. Like a moth to the flame.

“So next you’ll want me to tell you about Toys. That girl, Meat Kuroinu, if I recall?”

“... You knew? No, so Meat’s like that?”

“I knew~. It’s something I made after all... or maybe it’s better to say I’m making? Unlike Setsuna, that girl isn’t natural .”

... Meat is—no, Toys are created existences...?

“Different from Setsuna and Nayuta? I thought something was said about them being sisters?”

“Setsuna is natural, I haven’t adjusted her at all. And yet she’s so interesting right? The seed I’d chosen randomly brought forth a miracle. That’s why I gave making Nayuta and the Toys a shot.” [1]

Hold up. She just said something outrageous like it was nothing.

Leona continued talking about her story.

"Setsuna's talent value is super close to 6V and feels like 5V! Ah, you don't know what I mean? Well, anyways, she has miraculous talent. However, she's a bit lacking in the head, so I adjusted Nayuta's head to be better. Toys are things I made when I wondered what would happen if I raised their talent to as high as possible! There's a lot that I did that so, so I decided to call all of them Toys... oh, the origin of their name is the Japanese word 'toy'. Well, setting aside Nayuta who I'd only added checks to so that she wouldn't be unreasonable, I've had a lot of failures too. Really, training so many different creatures causes a lot of troubles. I've finally gotten to the point that I can mix a few things together without changing their appearance though. After many sacrifices, I finally made five Toys to assemble the Toy Rangers!—ah, that part was a lie. The Toy Rangers aren't a thing~. It'd sound too cheesy. Well it's true that I had a ton of failures, only three of them ever turned out exceeding their planned talent values. Ah, but don't worry! My lovely grandchildren and my failures weren't for nothing. The staff happily accepted them, turning them into materials, food, even furniture... ah, there was even one of them that became a toilet! Ufufu, I said something good there... Hmm? But isn't it weird? The failures should've all been locked away and recycled? And I know where the three successes are? Huh? Then that means there's a fourth, I guess? Maybe it's one of the ones I discarded and stopped paying attention to? Well, it's a trivial problem. It's probably just that I threw her into a slum in attempts to see if she'd be able to break through her limits in such a horrible environment and forgot about it. There's also the possibility that Haku-chan stole my research results. That child has a hero under her control after all. There's also the chance of godly intervention, but well, that's not much of a problem either. What I can't remember doesn't matter, probably. Ah, I started babbling didn't I? Well, with all that—"

Leona took a deep breath before continuing.

"—the Toys were created by me! Amazing, right!?"

"You already said that."

"Oh."

Yep, most of the middle part's fuzzy, but I do get that she's done a ton of bad

things. I was listening since it seemed like she'd break me if I didn't though.

"Hmph, then let's talk about something else. How about raising hero skills?"

"... Sure."

"+1 if you destroy a Dummy Core. +1 and a chance to learn a new skill if you destroy a Dungeon Core. If you've maxed out all your levels, it'll be stockpiled until you learn a new one—You probably know that as well, right, Keima-san?"

Nope, didn't know that. I did realize that the level went up when you destroy a Dungeon Core though.

"Then I wonder if you've noticed that, for us who are also Dungeon Masters and who are affiliated with the Dark God's faction, we can level up as much as we want?"

... Eh?

"H-h-hold up. Huh, what?"

"Hmm? What's wrong?"

I mean, Dummy Cores are things that can be bought for 5000 DP. I used to think that was a lot, but nowadays I can earn 5000 DP pretty fast. In other words—

"I can power level myself!?"

"Yeah?"

I can power level myself like eating french fries at a buffet.

Let's level [Super Transformation] as soon as I get back.

"... Ah, but I don't recommend leveling hero skills all at once. The Light God will eat your soul if you do."

"Huh? Please, wait. What?"

"Fufu."

Leona laughed.

"Do you think that so out-of-the-norm skills like hero skills can be mastered so easily? Your soul's growth and adaptation wouldn't be able to keep up. If you aren't a capable container, you should level up only once or twice in a year at the most."

So it's like that? Rather, soul's growth and adaptation? Just what are skills?

"It'll corrode your soul if you go past your limit. And since hero skills are the Light God's territory... do you understand now that I've spoken this much? Yeah, if you give it your all in raising your levels at a fast pace, you'll turn into God's Vanguard ."

... Let's keep it to one level a year! I've probably already hit my credit limit, I mean, I'm probably just barely safe. I went straight to Lv 3 after all.

"Well, you usually wouldn't be able to capture multiple dungeons in a year, so it's a double standard unique to people like us. Even if other Heroes did their best, being able to capture multiple in a year is something they'd probably only be able to do as a God's Vanguard in the first place."

"Leona, uhh, have you been corroded?"

"Me? No? I'm still fine, my soul isn't a what a single person should have and can't be compared to yours. It's a rule I found out in an experiment with Haku-chan. Well, I kept it quiet so Haku-chan probably hasn't noticed though."

So many horrible things. The experiments, Leona, and the Hero Skills.

"Oooh right. Could you take care of Setsuna? You could add her to your harem. But make sure to have lots of kids since I'll be taking one."

"Eh? I don't intend to make a move on any of my employees though? And let alone a harem, I haven't touched anyone."

"Eh?"

Surprised, Leona opened her red eyes widely.

"... Uwaah, seriously? Unbelievable, you've gathered so many pretty things... eh, is that it? You're gay? Ah, Setsuna has a penis, you know? She is a girl though."

"I'm straight!"

"I see, so you're a no-good virgin."

"H-h-h-how does that have anything to do with someone being a virgin!?"

"... Shall I give you some confidence then? It's alright, I'll be gentle."

Tapping the top of the Godly Comforter, Leona moved her shirt a little out of the way. She exposed part of her clavicle, even her cleavage... but dang. I can't see her legs at all with that pose. In other words, it's not effective against me at

all.

“I refuse.”

“Oh, I’ve been rejected? Interesting, is the comforter’s effect not working...?
No, it worked in bringing you here. Do you have some resistance...?”

Staying here any longer might be dangerous.

“Honestly, I’m attracted to that futon, but I’m heading back!”

“That would be a problem.”

When I came to, bandages had been twined around my hands at some point...
and Leona was opposite me. The heck. I didn’t black out though?

“Whaaat, it’ll be over before you can count the dots on the ceiling~, or not~?”

“Wh-what’re you trying to pull, cut it out!?”

And then I lost consciousness.

Chapter 243 – Courage

I woke up. A throbbing pain was pounding in my head.
... What happened? I'm sure I was... huh? I'm in a room at the inn? And the suite room at that.
I was trying to be sure about something to do with Leona, but didn't I get caught in a trap?

Why am I here? Did I lose my memory? Or maybe I'm in a dream?

I heard a knock at the door.

"Who is it?"

"Meat."

It was Meat's voice. I started to give her permission to enter the room—but then I noticed what I was wearing.

That is, nothing at all.

Moreover, this futon. It's the Godly Comforter for some reason. The suite room should've had a down-filled mattress.

Moreover moreover, I felt a weight on my body. When I looked to see what it was, it was Rokuko clinging to my body, still asleep.

Sh-she's wearing her pajamas. Am I safe?

"Hold up a moment, Meat. I'd like to check over something, but could you please answer me through the door?"

"Yes."

"... How many days ago did Leona leave? The day I held the Dungeon Battle with Ontentoo, that is."

"Yes, that was day before yesterday, so... two days ago."

... What? There's a day's worth of memories missing.

This is scary. Not only did I lose consciousness, which I might be fine with by itself, Leona almost definitely did something to me.

I decided to wake Rokuko up. I feel sorry for doing it since she looks happy with some drool coming from her mouth on to my belly, it had to be dome.

"... Hey, Rokuko, get up. Oi."

"Kehmaaa... mnmnn, nmnn...."

"Uoooh, stop licking my bellybutton, it's ticklish! And stop squirming about please, it's starting to make me feel weird! Please, get up, please!"

"Heeaah!? Ah, Kehma! ... You're back to yourself!?"

Judging by the first thing Rokuko said as she woke up, I'm starting to feel uneasy.

What the heck did I do yesterday!?

"Yesterday was dangerous. You definitely lost your mind. Only Meat and I noticed it though."

"... Uhh, what do you mean by that, exactly?"

"You suddenly hugged me and whispered to me that you love me. Umm, no, I mean I was happy that you were so passionate about it, but it didn't feel like 'Kehma'. So I brought you to the Godly Comforter and had you go to sleep."

So to put it another way, she used the therapeutic effect of the Godly Comforter... it cured abnormal statuses as well?

... Huh? Wait a sec. Now's not the time to be calm. Don't we have to be a married couple to prevent having divine punishment fall down on me for using the Godly Comforter? What happened to the divine punishment? Is that it? Did we get deemed as a couple? Eh, oi. Did god just officially recognize Rokuko and I as a couple?

"Hey, Rokuko."

"What's up?"

"... You and I, are we—wait, first off, why am I naked? Also, please let me put on some clothes."

"Ah, un. Good, you're back to being you... And you're naked because you took off your clothes when we got into the Godly Comforter. They should be on the floor now."

Just as Rokuko said, my clothes were strewn about the floor... I quickly put them on.

"..."

Umm, please stop staring at me like that. It's embarrassing to dress with someone watching.

A short moment later, I'd finished changing my clothes with Rokuko staring at me the whole time.

Should I ask it now then?

"Ah, umm, right. Rokuko. I need to ask you something."

"Sure, what?"

"... You and I, are we... a couple?"

"Eh?"

Rokuko responded in a blank voice... Wait, what's that 'Eh?' supposed to mean?

"... Ehhh!?"

"Please, Rokuko. Please answer me clearly."

"... Ah, um, that... we're partners?"

"Don't dodge the question, Rokuko."

"... ... Well, we're..."

We're...? We're what!?

".... Not a couple, right?"

"Not... a couple, yeah..."

Rokuko hung her head with a serious look on her face. Yeah, now it's come to this.

"... Crap. This is the Godly Comforter, I might get hit by that god-paling divine retribution...! What should I do, Rokuko?"

"Eh!? Ah, th-that? Umm. Well, if that's it, it's ok. It's set up so that it's alright when I give the permission."

"Eh, really? Exclusive-use items can get set up with things like that?"

"Uhhh... yeah. Definitely."

Seriously? Tell me sooner if you can make adjustments like that to it!

"That's good then... Man, now that I know it's fine, I'm tired. Can I borrow it?"

"Eh? Mm, well..."

"Oh, right. Meat's still waiting outside, huh. Meat, is anything wrong?"

"No, I just came to see how you were doing. If you're safe and back to yourself,

that's good."

Finished saying that, Meat left.

Alright, let's go back to sleep.

"Hey, Kehma? ... What kind of, err, what kind of relationship do* we have? We're not... a couple, right?"

"... Yeah. We're not a couple. We haven't really went through a marriage or the formalities, after all."

"Is that... why? Kehma, do you not... want us to be a couple?"

Rokuko looked at me with an expression that seemed like she was about to cry.

... It's not like I don't want to. I mean, I definitely don't dislike her. Rather, I couldn't think about anyone else in this world being my partner other than Rokuko. Ah, maybe Meat? But she's a serious hug pillow girl... Which means Rokuko really is the only one.

But if I say that we're married or something like that right now, Haku-san would kill me. Twice. Once to remove [Super Transformation] and once after the extra life was gone. In other words, she wouldn't stop killing me until I'm dead.

"It doesn't feel like we're lovers, so... isn't it alright to stick with being partners?"

Even if I said we're lovers this far into our relationship, I think I'd still get killed by Haku-san. I don't exactly want to be killed, so I feel like my best bet is to bulldoze forward with our [Partner] set-up and not step on the landmines that are 'lover' and 'married'. We've been like that this whole time, after all.

"Then if you make someone else your lover, I'll, I'll... I'll pout!"

"You'll pout? Not oppose it?"

"Kehma, I don't think you'd do something like that without a reason, so it's alright. But you do know that I'll definitely pout about it, right? I'd need at least three servings of fresh melon bread."

"I don't really think it'll happen, but you should be really angry if it does."

"I'll forgive you if it does! Nehee~"

I rubbed Rokuko on the head.

... She smiled. She's even in her loli form, such a warming sight.

"Oh, umm. Should I stop sleeping with Meat?"

"Eh? Meat's a hug pillow, why would you stop?"

I just don't get Rokuko sometimes. Well, I'm accustomed to using Meat as a hug pillow nowadays, so it'd be a bit hard on me if I suddenly had to stop using her.

"Right... Meat is your exclusive hug pillow, isn't she...? Could you lend her to me too? I've been wanting to try using her for a while now. I'll let you use the Godly Comforter in exchange."

"Sure, why not."

Our negotiations concluded. Now that I know there won't be a divine retribution, there's no reason for me to hesitate about the Godly Comforter anymore.

But well, there's a risk that I might be addicted to it. That isn't a reason to hesitate from enjoying it, though.

"We could also all three of us sleep together in the Godly comforter."

"Oooh! That sound great, let me call Meat back so we can get back to sleep."

"Wait, Meat has a shift and there's only the two of them right now. Meat joining in can wait till later... How about we sleep till lunch?"

"Sure~"

Rokuko and I somehow arrived at a compromise about our relationship. I should probably give my thanks to Leona for it, seeing as how she was the main culprit behind us two sleeping in the Godly Comforter. Not, let's not. It's Leona, after all.

Still though, pushing forward with our relationship as 'partners'... I don't think the old me would've done that.

Rokuko and I were—no, I think I was caring about the typical concept of 'lovers' and 'couples' too much.

How should I say it... oh.

Like I got some courage?